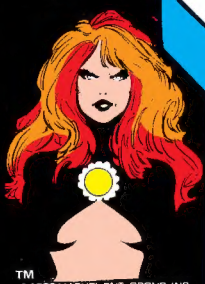


MARVEL®

INFERNO

X-MEN®



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APPROVED
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COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

**GIANT-SIZED
SPECTACULAR!**



THE ORIGINALS ARE BACK.. X-FACTOR!

INFERNO PART THE THIRD

THIS IS A MOMENT...

... THAT SPEAKS
MOST ELOQUENTLY
FOR ITSELF.



STAN LEE
PRESENTS

BURN!

IT IS A NIGHT WHEN THE
UNIVERSES SHAKE...

...AND THE FABRIC OF REALITY ITSELF--
THE SUM AND SUBSTANCE OF ALL
THAT EVER WAS AND EVER SHALL BE--
TEARS ASUNDER...

...TO BE WOVEN ANEW BY
THE FORCES BATTLING HERE
INTO SOMETHING BETTER
OR WORSE...

...OR PERHAPS INTO NOTHING AT ALL.

SAVE FINAL OBLIVION.

FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH,
THE SETTING IS
MANHATTAN ISLAND, IN
THE SOUTHERNMOST
REACHES OF CENTRAL PARK...

AND THE PLAYERS--
THE UNCANNY X-MEN,
FACING OFF AGAINST
X-FACTOR (WHO, NOT SO
TERRIBLY LONG AGO, WERE
THE FOUNDING FIVE
MEMBERS OF X-MEN).

BUT
THIS IS A
MAGICK TIME--
WHEN LEGENDS
ARE MADE, AS
HEARTS ARE FOR-
EVER BROKEN--
AND AN ACCURSED
PLACE--

STORM

DAZZLER

WOLVERINE

MARVEL GIRL

MADELYNE
PRYOR

CYCLOPS

BEAST

HAVOK

PSYLOCKE

ROGUE

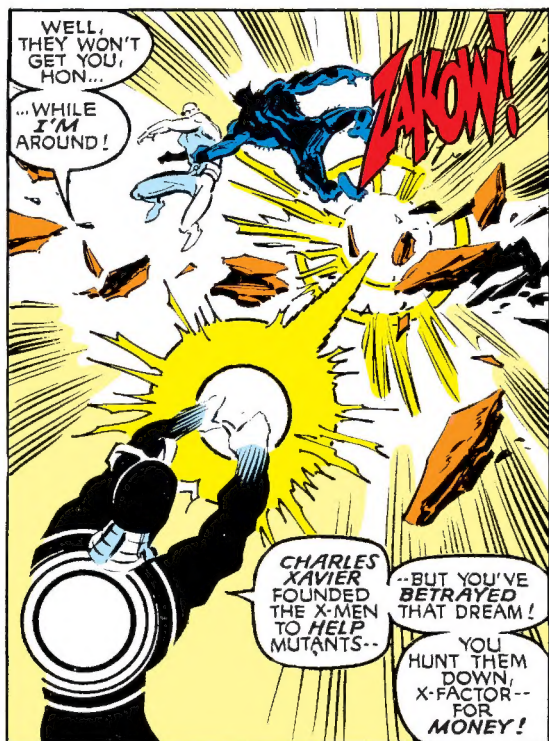
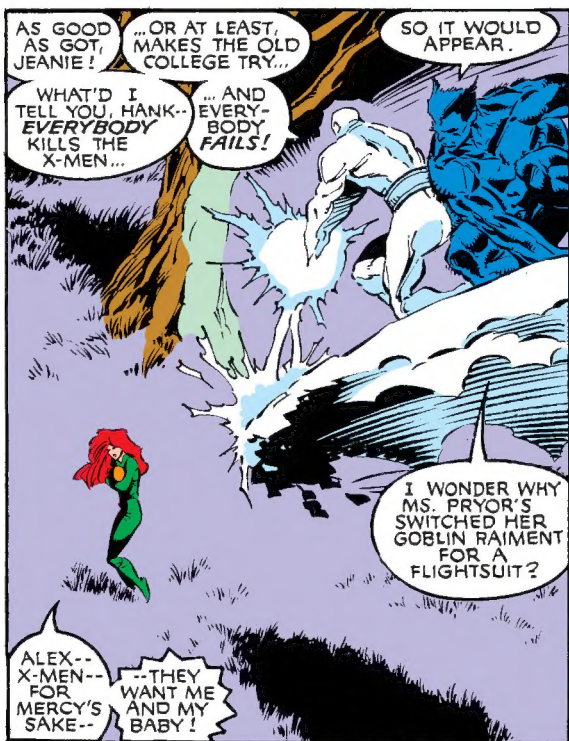
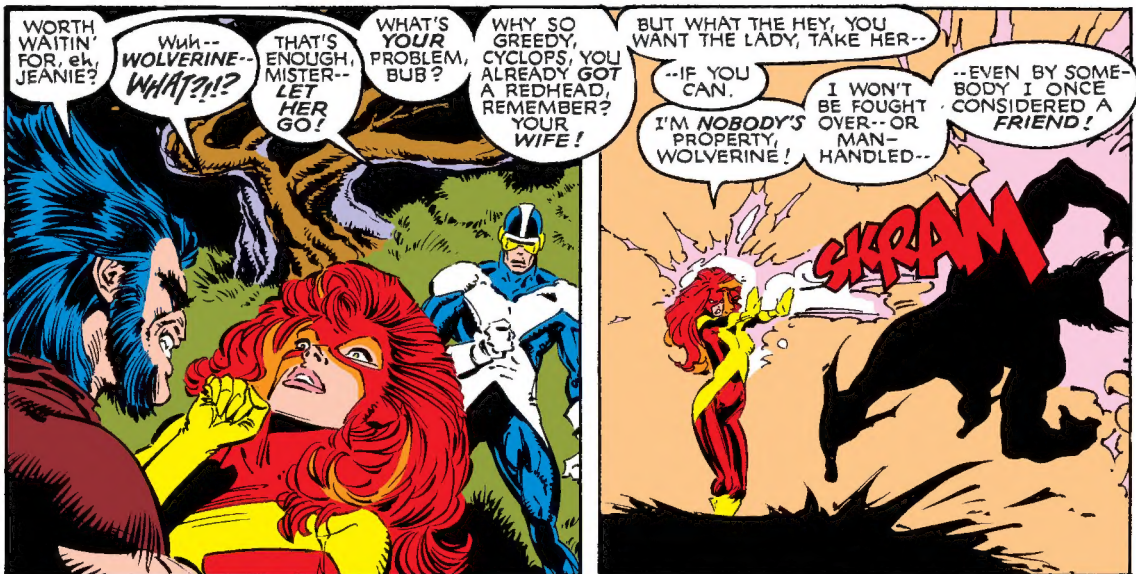
LONGSHOT

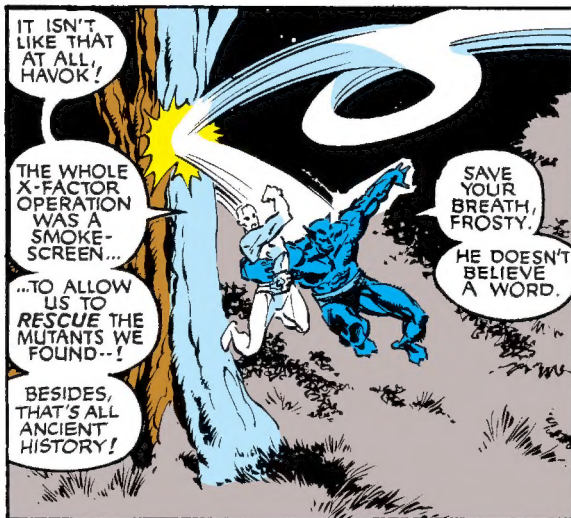
ICEMAN

...WHERE
NOTHING
IS AS IT
SHOULD
BE...

...AND EVEN
LESS WHAT
IT SEEMS.

CHRIS CLAREMONT, WRITER
MARC SILVESTRI, PENCILER
DAN GREEN, INKER
GLYNIS OLIVER, COLORIST
TOM ORZECOWSKI, LETTERER
BOB HARRAS, EDITOR
TOM DeFALCO, EDITOR IN CHIEF





IT ISN'T LIKE THAT AT ALL, HAVOK!

THE WHOLE X-FACTOR OPERATION WAS A SMOKE-SCREEN... ..TO ALLOW US TO RESCUE THE MUTANTS WE FOUND--!

BESIDES, THAT'S ALL ANCIENT HISTORY!

SAVE YOUR BREATH, FROSTY.

HE DOESN'T BELIEVE A WORD.



YOUR ADS, BEASTIE-BOY, YOUR REP.

JUST LIKE IT'S IMPOSSIBLE FOR JEAN TO DENY THE TRUTH.

MY SENSES TELL ME YOU *LOVED* THAT KISS, DARLIN'.

HARD TO DENY WHAT YOU WORKED SO HARD TO BUILD.

AN' YOU WANT MORE!



YOU ROUGH-NECK LITTLE LOWLIFE CREEP--

--I WAS RIGHT ABOUT YOU FROM THE START!

THE YEARS HAVEN'T TAUGHT YOU ANYTHING.

CAN'T YOU GET IT THROUGH YOUR THICK SKULL?

JEAN'S SPOKEN FOR!



I KNOW THE REST, FLYBOY--

--EVEN IF SHE WASN'T, SHE'S STILL "TOO GOOD" FOR THE LIKES OF ME.

ANGEL-- HIS SCENT-- SOMETHING ABOUT IT--

--FAMILIAR-- PAIN-- SWEET MERCY, THE PAIN!

THE HECK WITH THAT, BUB--



--AN' THE HECK WITH YOU!

TOUCHED A NERVE, HAVE I?

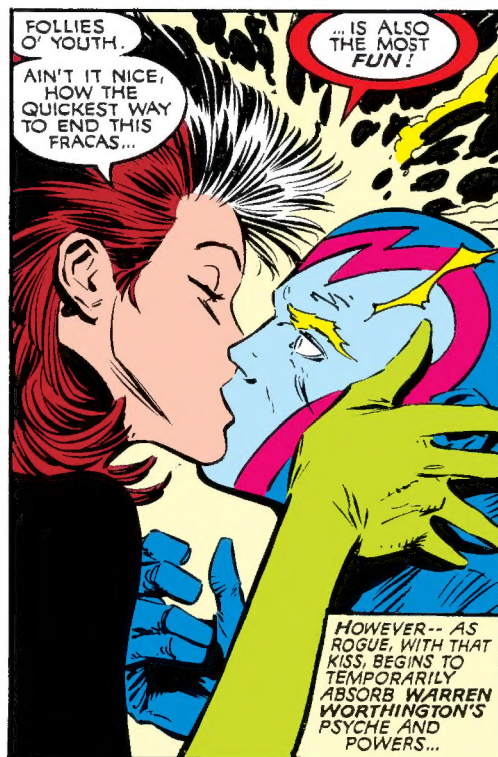
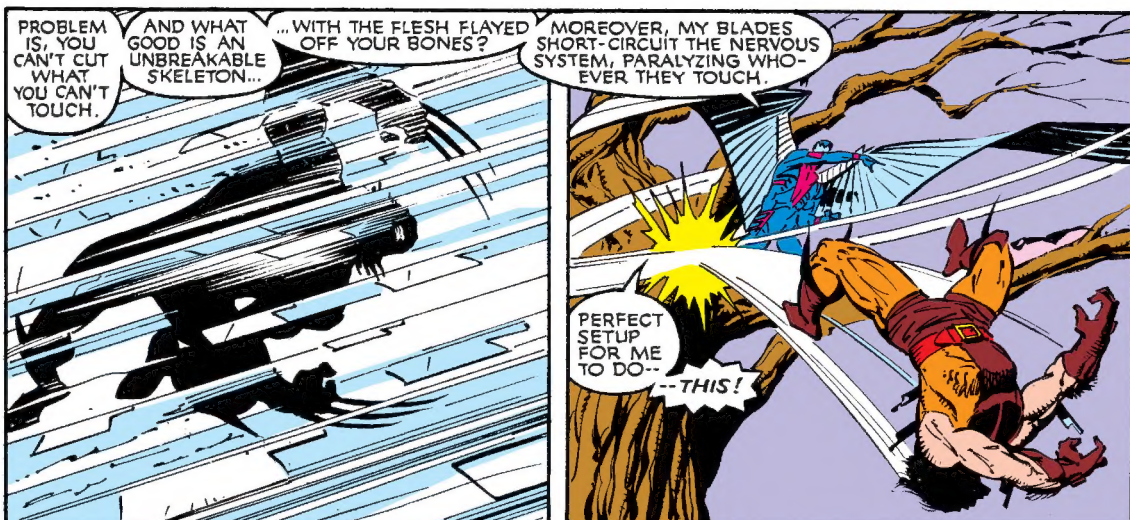
HERE YOU COME-- THE PIPSQUEAK PSYCHO-KILLER WITH BONES THAT CAN'T BE BROKEN...

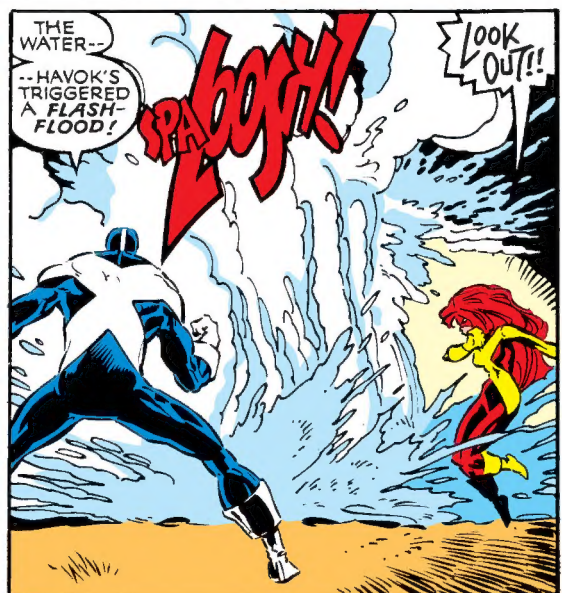
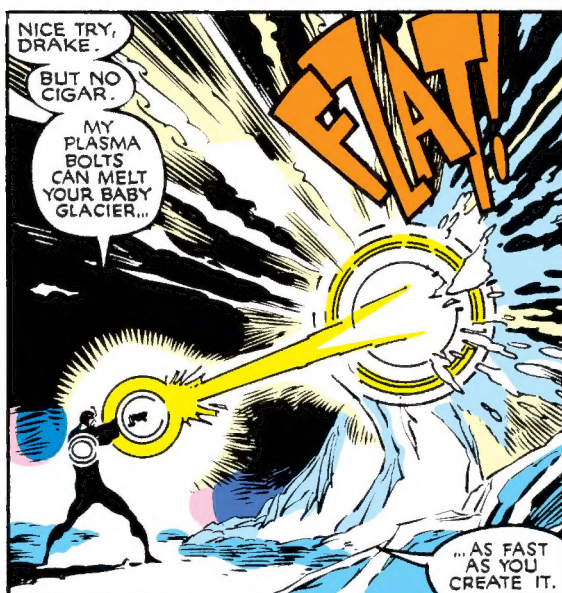
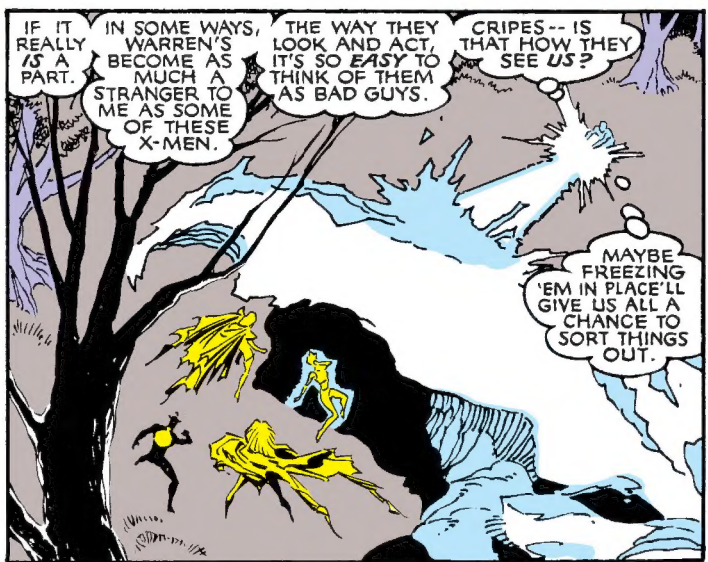
...AND CLAWS THAT'LL CUT THROUGH ANYTHING.

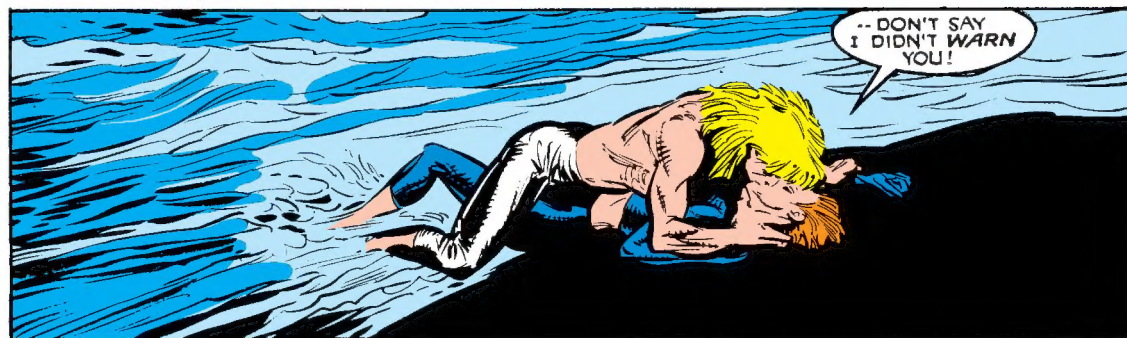
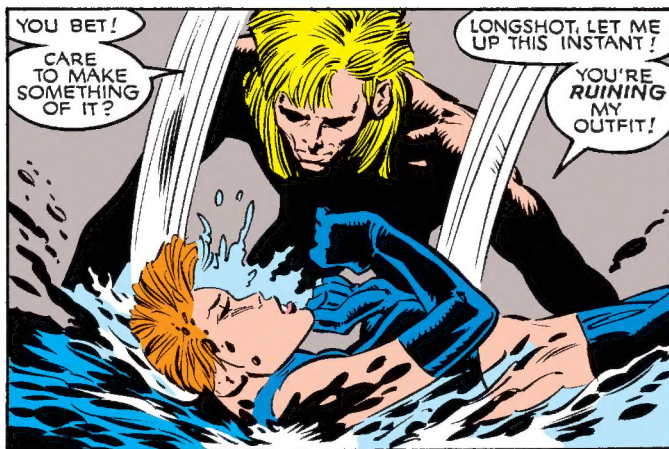
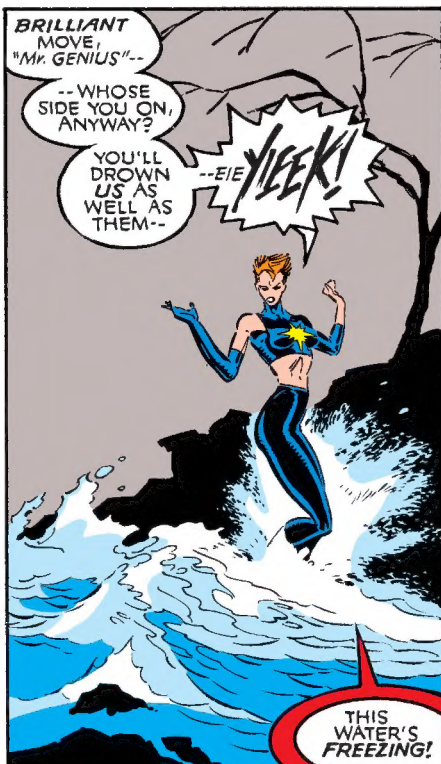


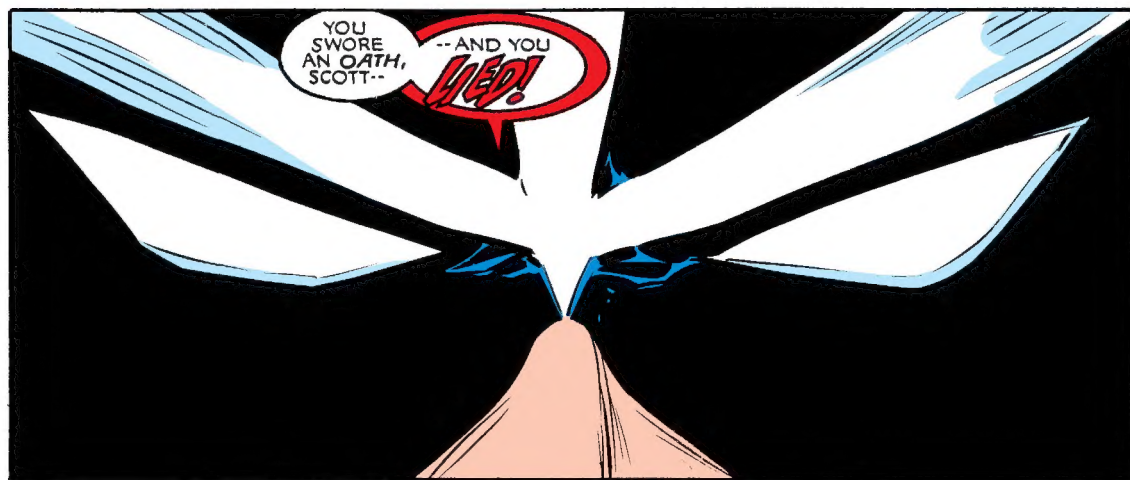
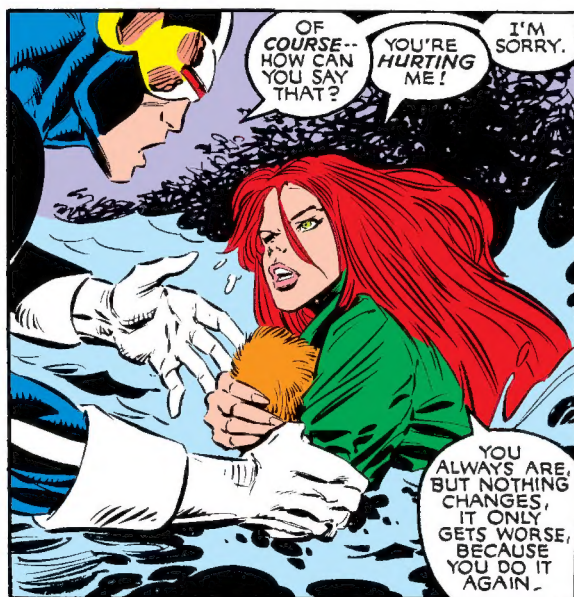
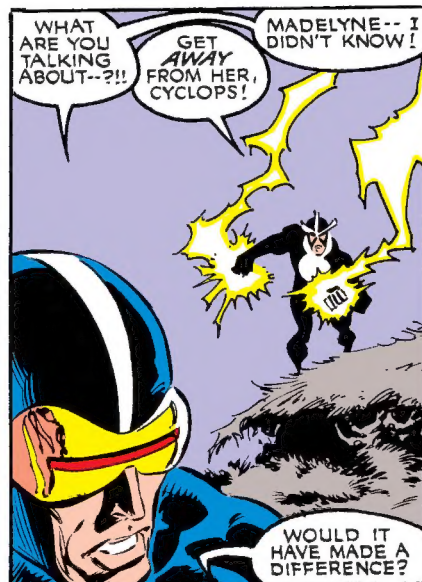
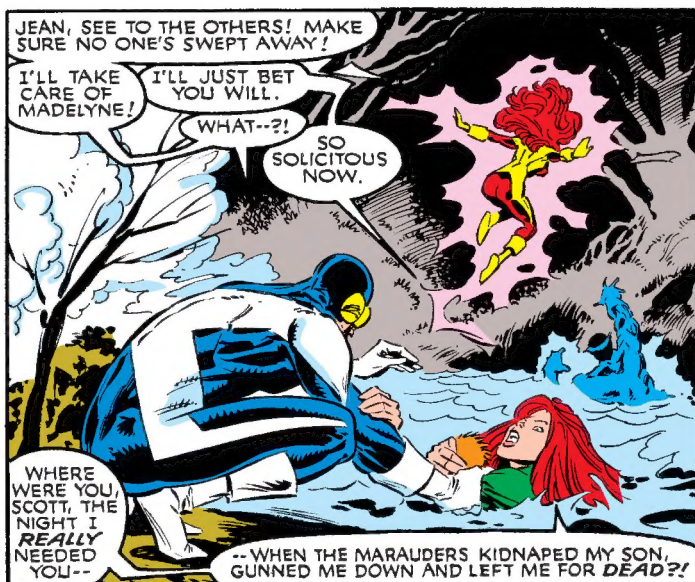
WELL, I HAVE *BLADES*, TOO, NOW, SHORTY. SHARP AS YOURS AND JUST AS DEADLY.

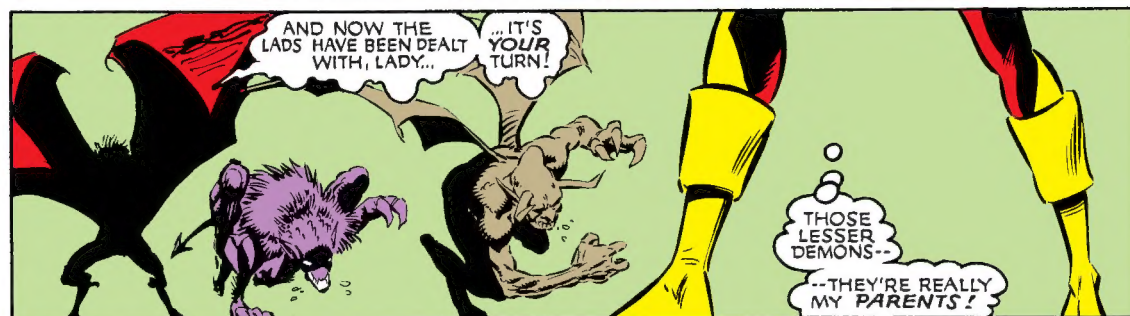
ONLY MINE CAN BE THROWN.

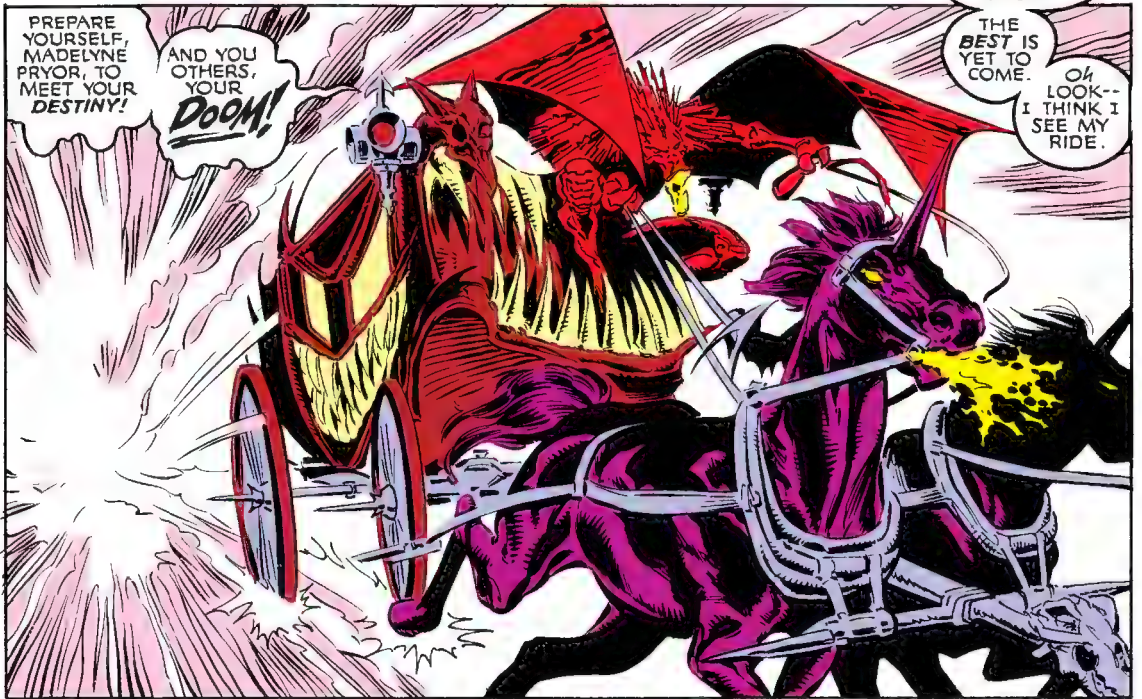
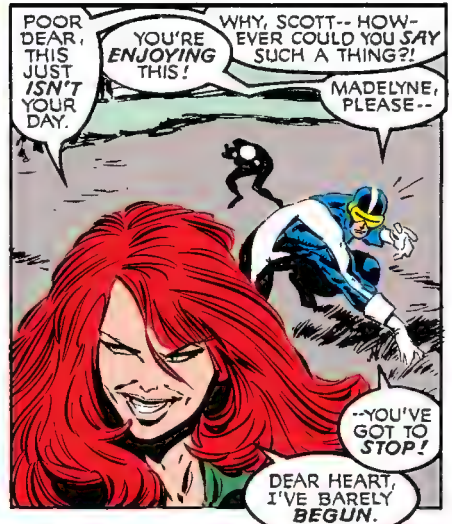
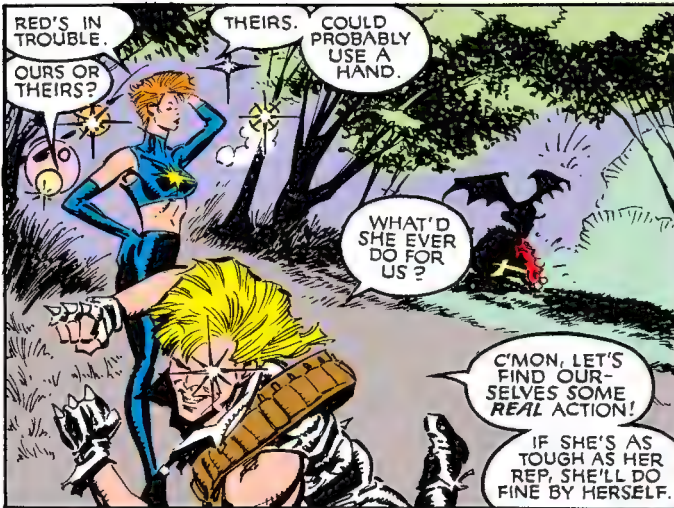


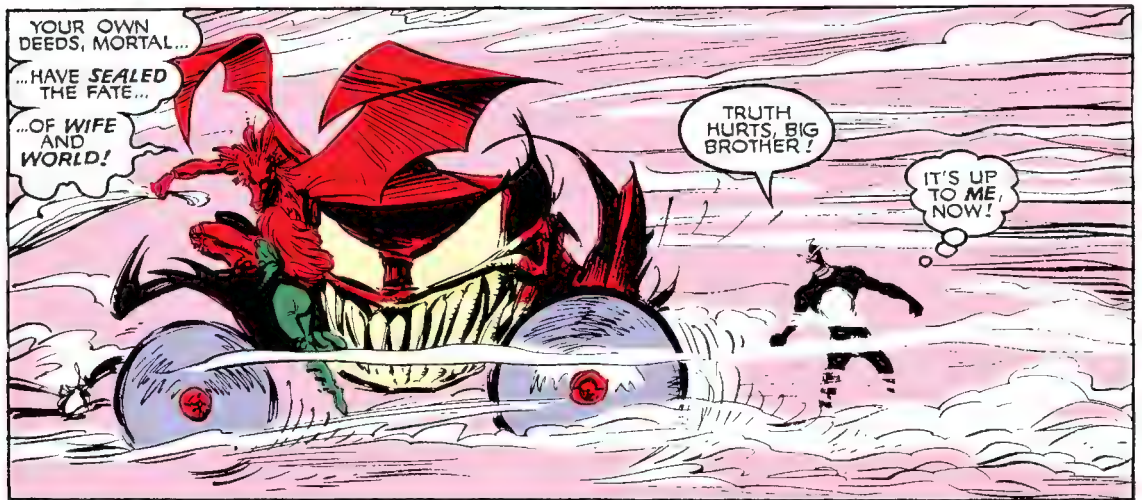
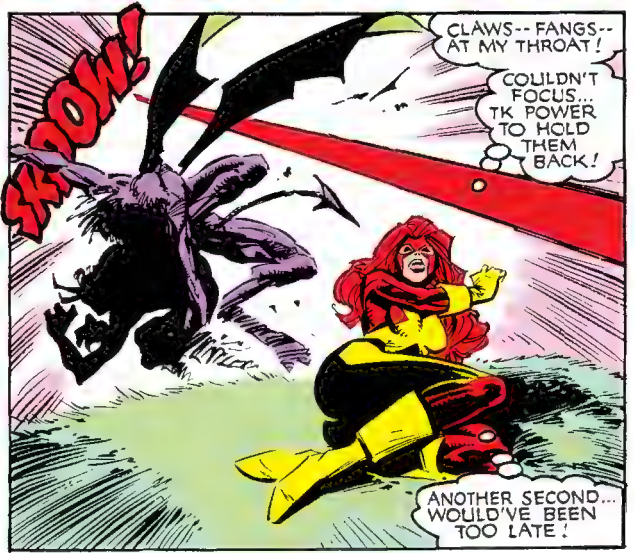


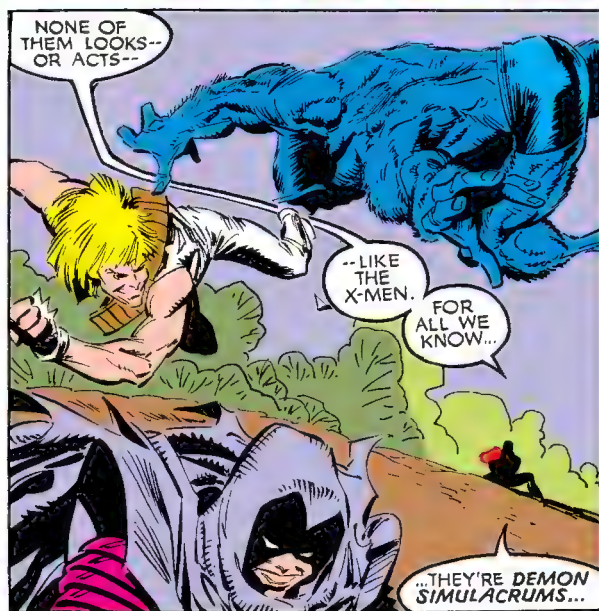


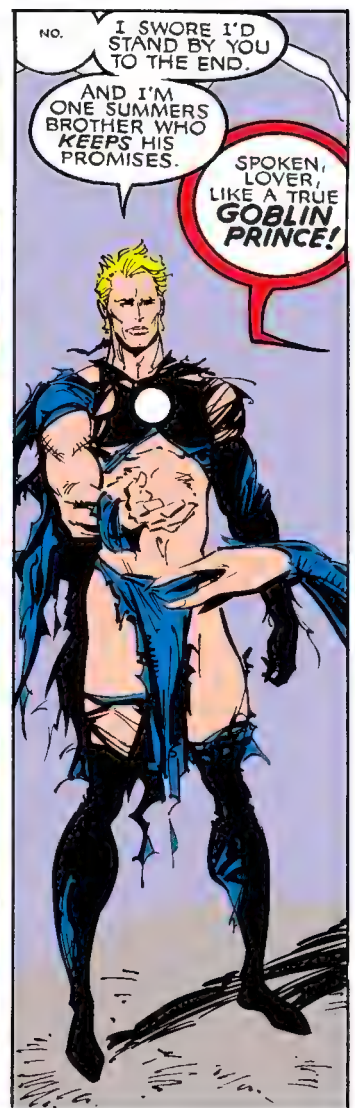
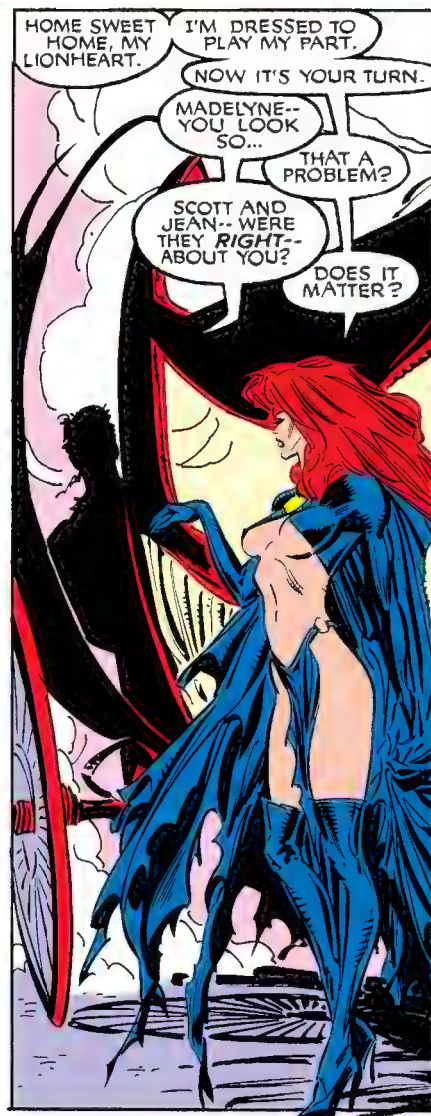
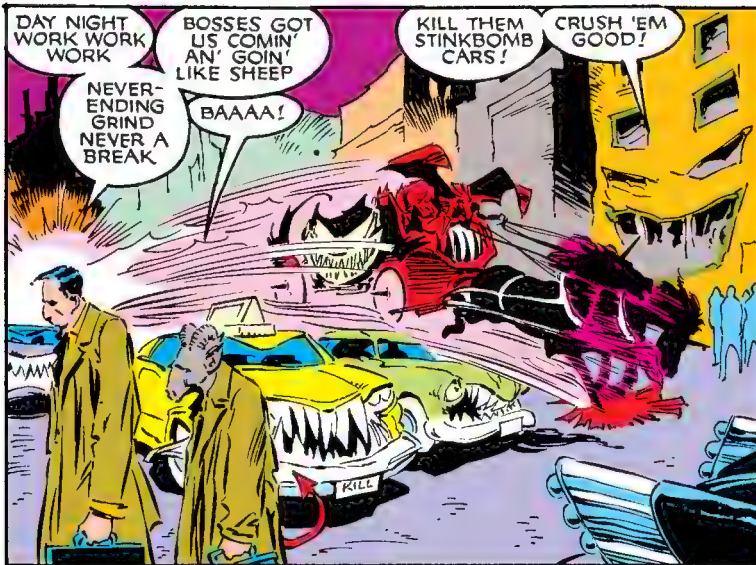










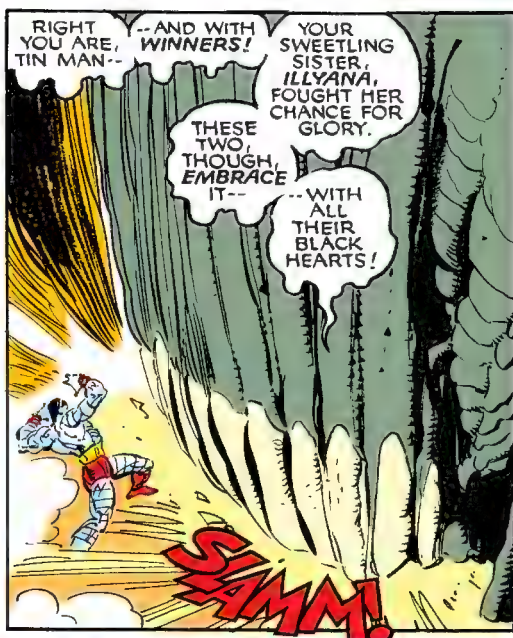




MADELYNE!
HAVOK!!

DON'T
GO IN
THERE!

MY FRIENDS--
YOU'RE ALLYING
YOURSELVES
WITH DEMONS!



RIGHT
YOU ARE,
TIN MAN--

--AND WITH
WINNERS!

YOUR
SWEETLING
SISTER,
ILLYANA,
FOUGHT HER
CHANCE FOR
GLORY.

THESE
TWO,
THOUGH,
EMBRACE
IT--

--WITH
ALL
THEIR
BLACK
HEARTS!

SAMM!



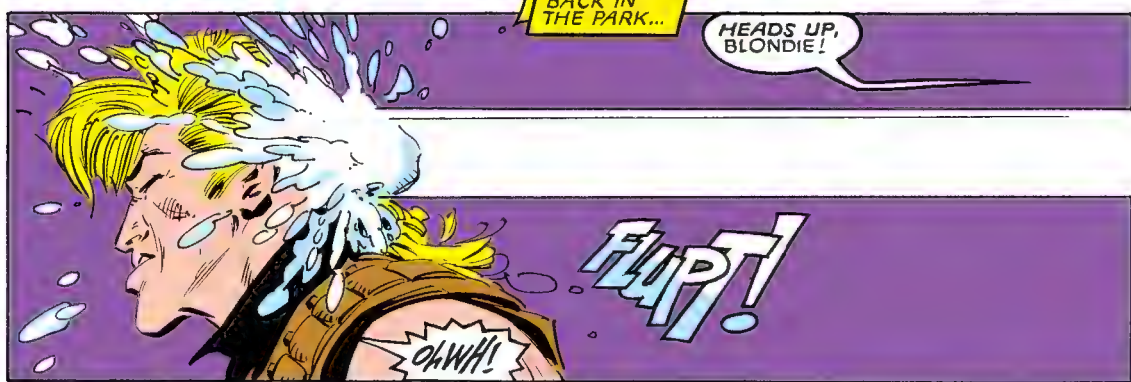
NO,
N'ASTIRH--
NOT SO
LONG AS
COLOSSUS...



...HAS
LIFE AND
STRENGTH
TO STOP
THEM--

--AND
YOU!

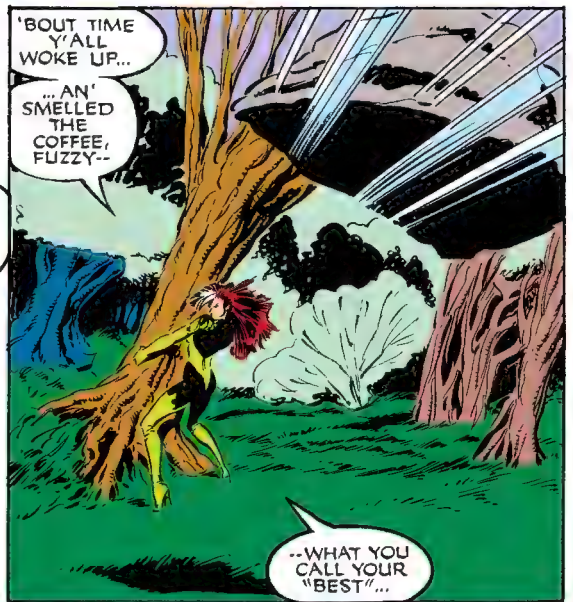
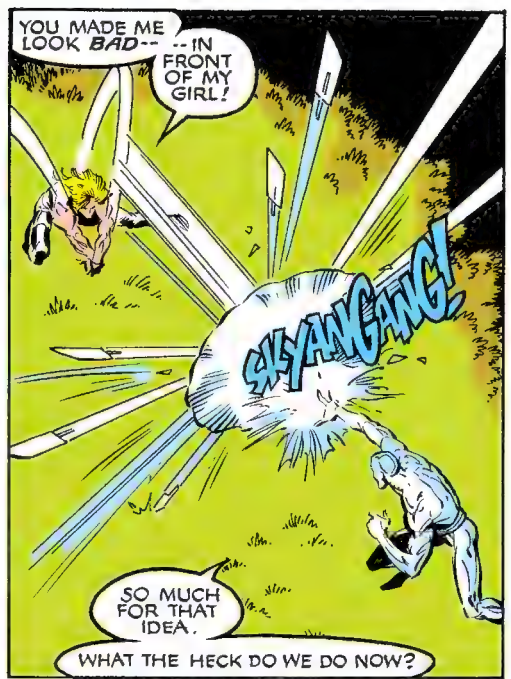
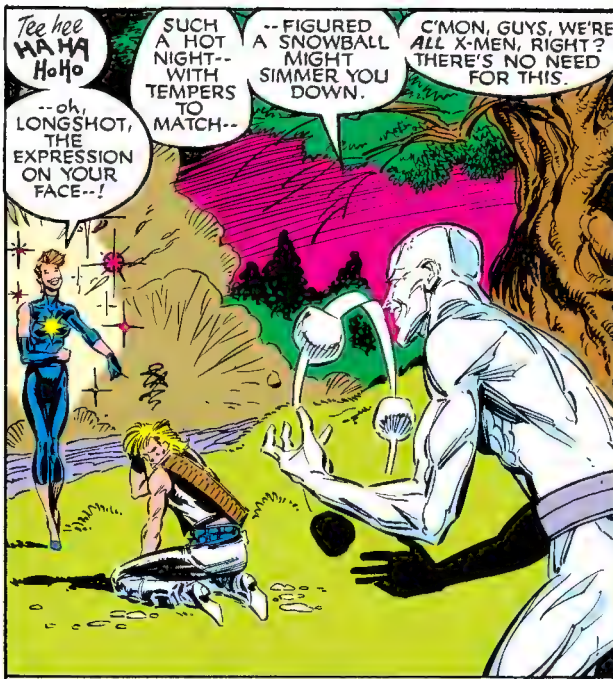
MEANWHILE,
BACK IN
THE PARK...

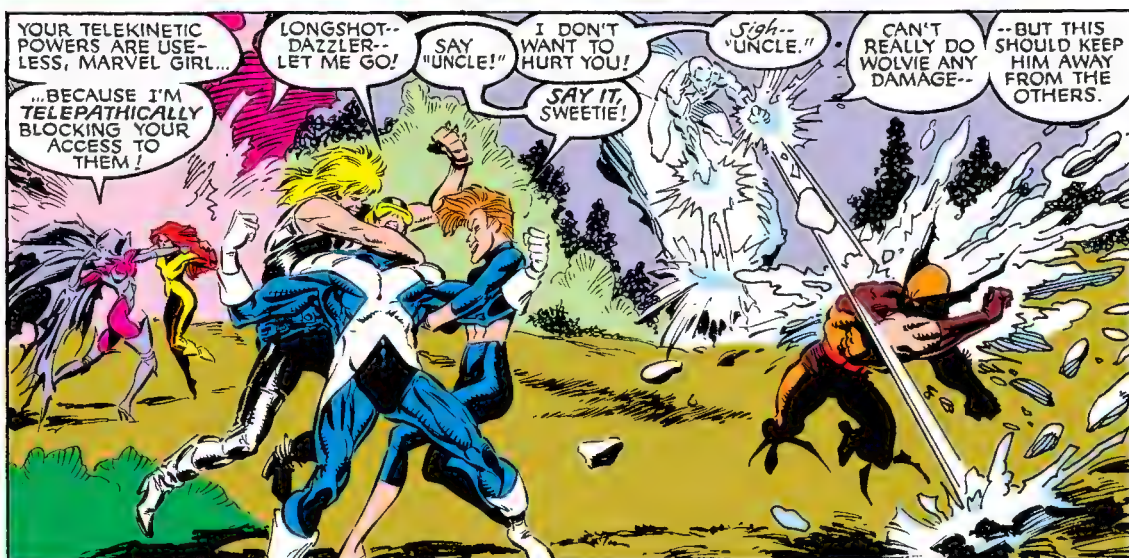
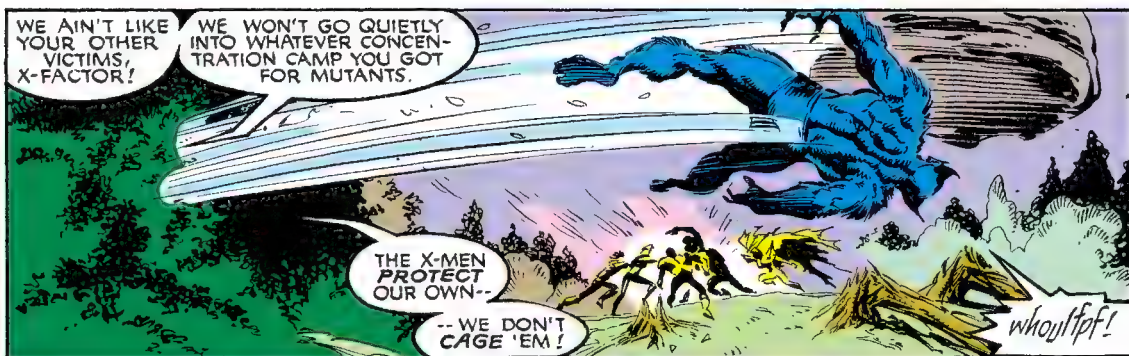


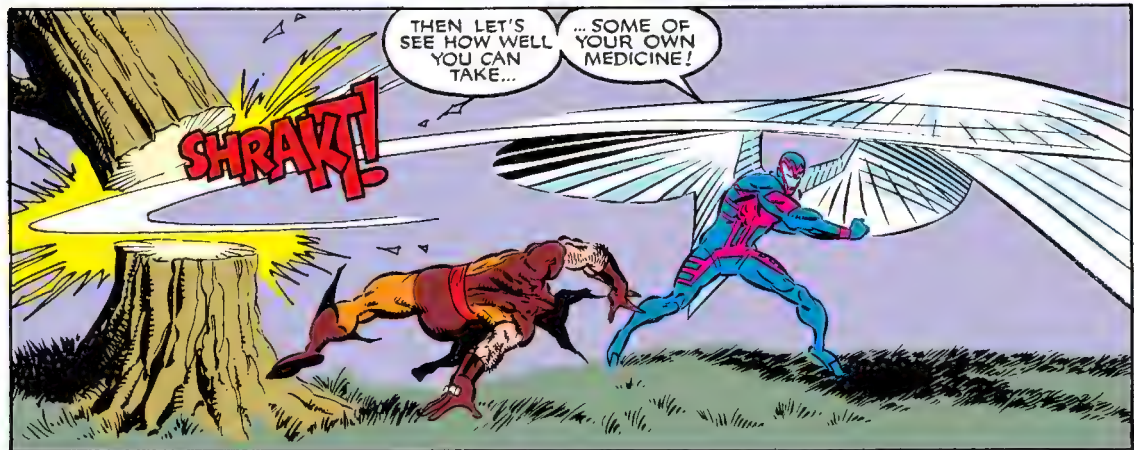
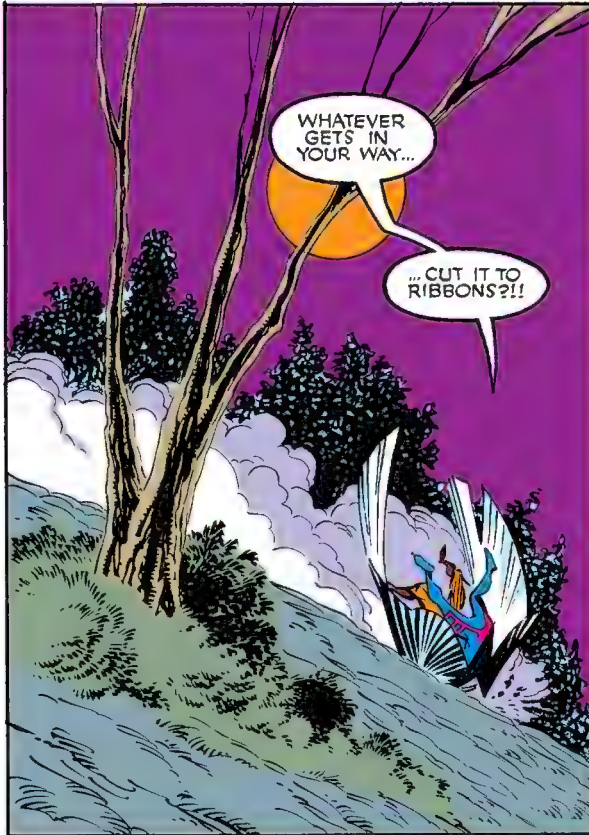
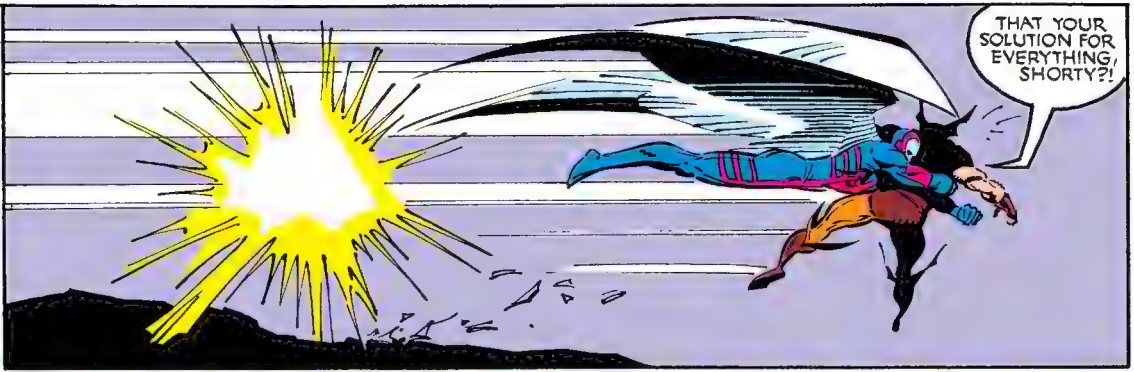
HEADS UP,
BLONDIE!

FLUP!

OWWH!







THE BATTLE RAGES...

...MORE FIERCELY WITH EVERY MOMENT.

...BUT EVEN THE WILDEST FANTASY WAS NEVER LIKE THIS... EH?!?

THE EMPIRE STATE BUILDING--

--MY VISION-- BLURRING-- WHEN I LOOK TOWARDS IT... I SEE...

THAT BUTTE!

FROM THE OTHER-DIMENSIONAL EARTH WHERE FORGE AND I WERE EXILED BY HIS ANCIENT ADVERSARY!*

YET WHY DO I REMAIN ABOVE IT ALL?

I HAVE OFTEN IMAGINED...

...HOW, MIRACULOUSLY, JEAN AND I MIGHT MEET AGAIN--

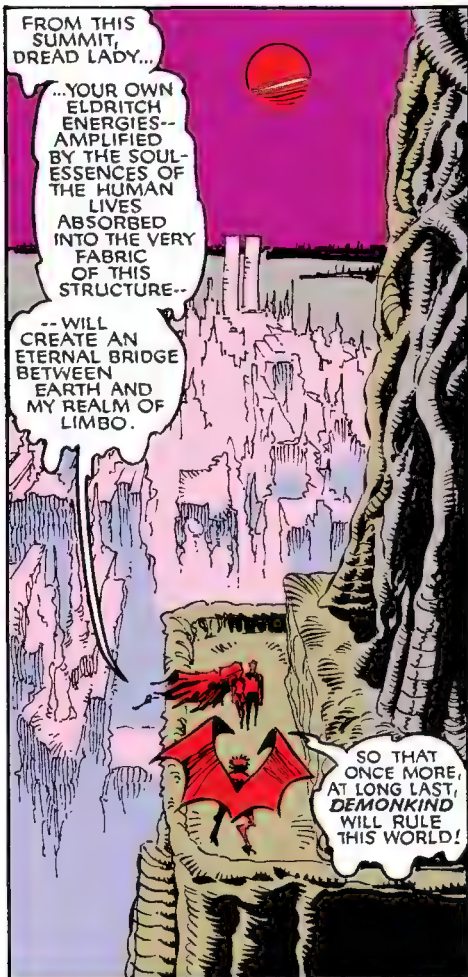
*IN X-MEN #'S 225-227, "THE FALL OF THE MUTANTS" -- Bob.

IT WAS THERE, ATOP THAT MYSTIC PEAK...

...HE CAST THE GATEWAY SPELL TO BRING US HOME.

BUT WHY FLASH BACK TO THAT MEMORY NOW?

WHAT IS ITS SIGNIFICANCE TO THIS TIME AND PLACE?

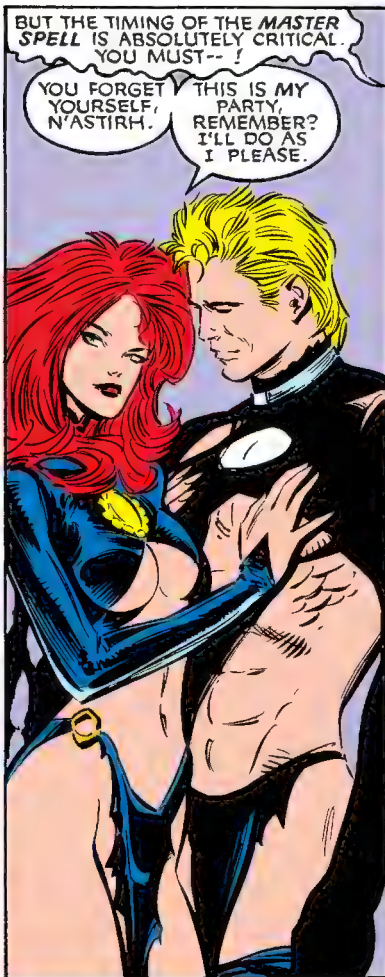


FROM THIS SUMMIT, DREAD LADY...

...YOUR OWN ELDRITCH ENERGIES-- AMPLIFIED BY THE SOUL-ESSENCES OF THE HUMAN LIVES ABSORBED INTO THE VERY FABRIC OF THIS STRUCTURE--

-- WILL CREATE AN ETERNAL BRIDGE BETWEEN EARTH AND MY REALM OF LIMBO.

SO THAT ONCE MORE, AT LONG LAST, **DEMONKIND** WILL RULE THIS WORLD!



BUT THE TIMING OF THE **MASTER SPELL** IS ABSOLUTELY CRITICAL. YOU MUST-- !

YOU FORGET YOURSELF, N'ASTIRH.

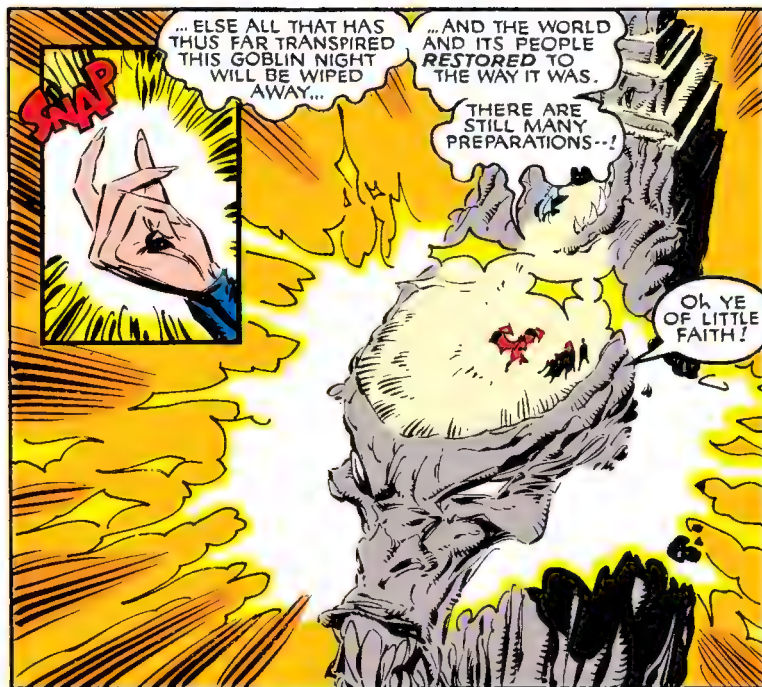
THIS IS MY PARTY, REMEMBER? I'LL DO AS I PLEASE.



OF COURSE, OF COURSE, FORGIVE YOUR HUMBLE SERVANT... ..WHO YEARNs TO CRACK YOUR ACCURSED BONES...

...HE MEANT NO REPROOF.

BUT THE ENCHANTMENT MUST BE CAST BY DAWN...

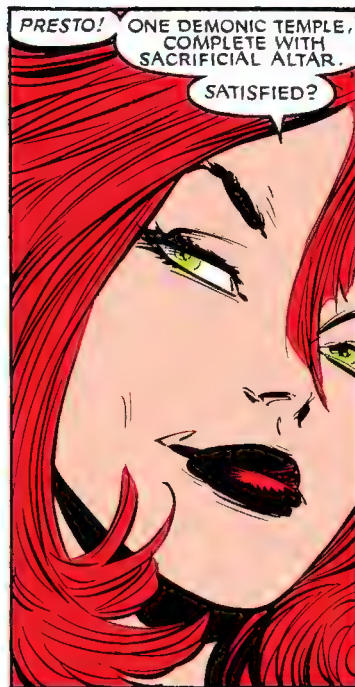


...ELSE ALL THAT HAS THUS FAR TRANSPIRED THIS GOBLIN NIGHT WILL BE WIPED AWAY...

...AND THE WORLD AND ITS PEOPLE RESTORED TO THE WAY IT WAS.

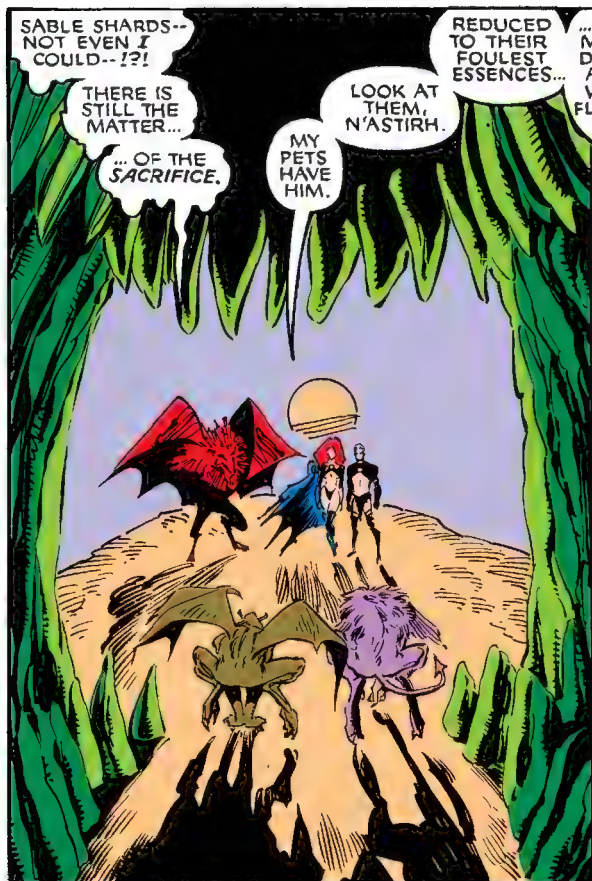
THERE ARE STILL MANY PREPARATIONS--!

OH YE OF LITTLE FAITH!



PRESTO! ONE DEMONIC TEMPLE, COMPLETE WITH SACRIFICIAL ALTAR.

SATISFIED?



SABLE SHARDS--
NOT EVEN I
COULD--!?!

THERE IS
STILL THE
MATTER...

... OF THE
SACRIFICE.

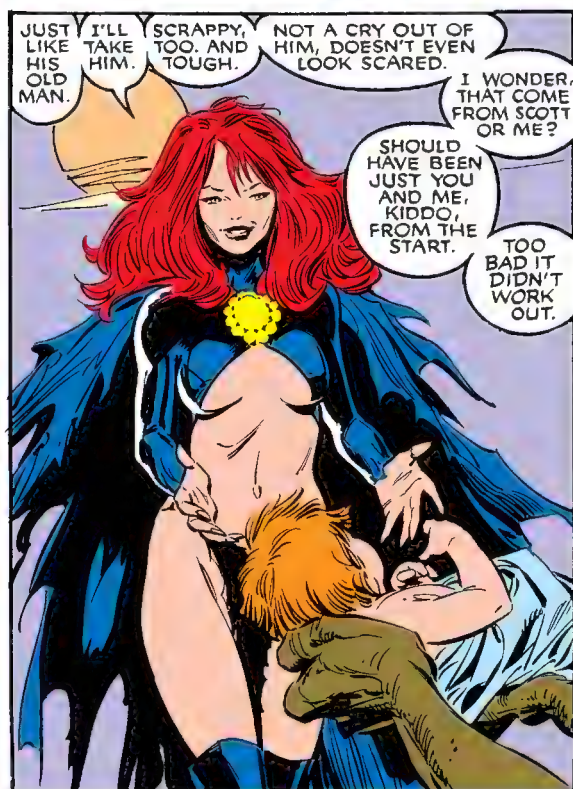
MY
PETS
HAVE
HIM.

LOOK AT
THEM,
N'ASTIRH.

REDUCED
TO THEIR
FOULEST
ESSENCES...

... PROFESSOR AND
MRS. GREY *STILL*
DOTE ON THE BABY--
AS THOUGH HE
WERE THEIR OWN
FLESH-AND-BLOOD,
THEIR *TRUE*
GRANDSON!

NO DOUBT ABOUT
IT, THE KID'S A
CHARMER.



JUST
LIKE
HIS
OLD
MAN.

I'LL
TAKE
HIM.

SCRAPPY,
TOO. AND
TOUGH.

NOT A CRY OUT OF
HIM, DOESN'T EVEN
LOOK SCARED.

I WONDER,
THAT COME
FROM SCOTT
OR ME?

SHOULD
HAVE BEEN
JUST YOU
AND ME,
KIDDO,
FROM THE
START.

TOO
BAD IT
DIDN'T
WORK
OUT.



SCOTT!

--CALLING OUT
TO ME--

THE BABY--
HE'S *THERE*--

--MY LORD, I
CAN SEE IT IN
HIS THOUGHTS--

--HOW CAN
MADELYNE,
SHE'S HIS
MOTHER--

--SCOTT,
SHE MEANS
TO *KILL*
HIM!



I HEARD THAT!

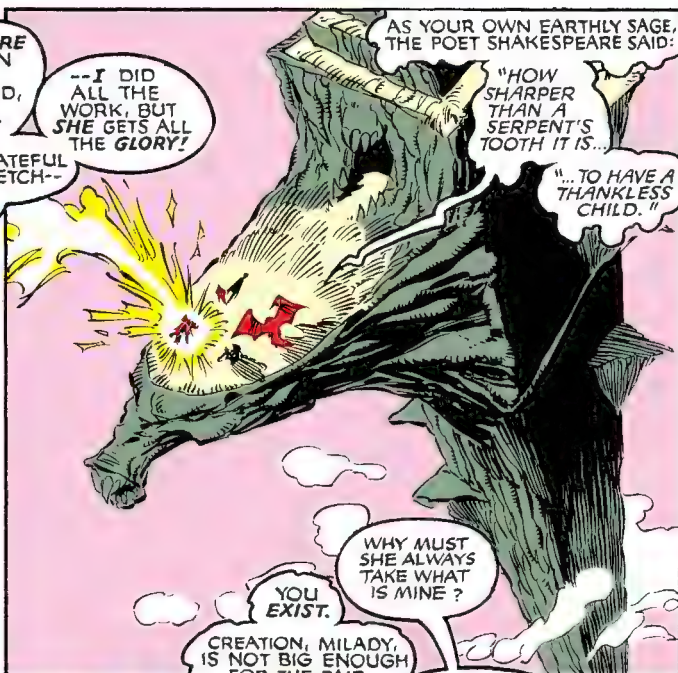
YOU REACHED OUT TO HER--

--I BORE YOU, BOY, I GAVE BIRTH TO YOU, YOU'RE MY SON--

--HOW DARE YOU TURN TO THAT RESURRECTED, RETREAD COW?!

UNGRATEFUL WRETCH--

--I DID ALL THE WORK, BUT SHE GETS ALL THE GLORY!



AS YOUR OWN EARTHLY SAGE, THE POET SHAKESPEARE SAID:

"HOW SHARPER THAN A SERPENT'S TOOTH IT IS..."

"...TO HAVE A THANKLESS CHILD."

WHY MUST SHE ALWAYS TAKE WHAT IS MINE?

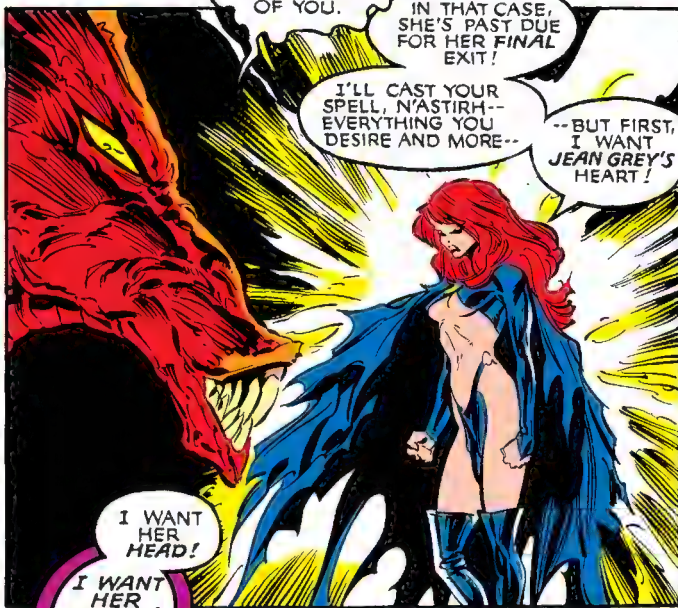
YOU EXIST.

CREATION, MILADY, IS NOT BIG ENOUGH FOR THE PAIR OF YOU.

IN THAT CASE, SHE'S PAST DUE FOR HER FINAL EXIT!

I'LL CAST YOUR SPELL, N'ASTIRH-- EVERYTHING YOU DESIRE AND MORE--

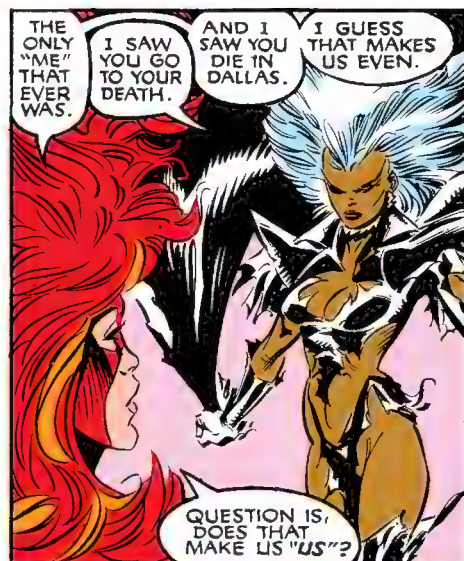
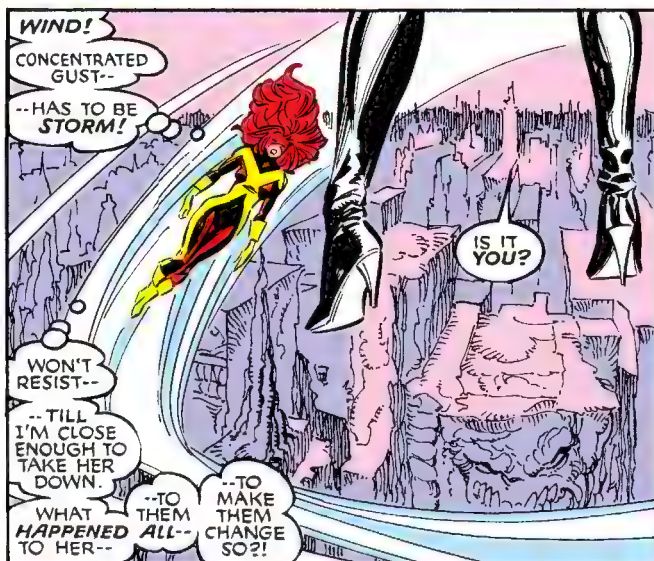
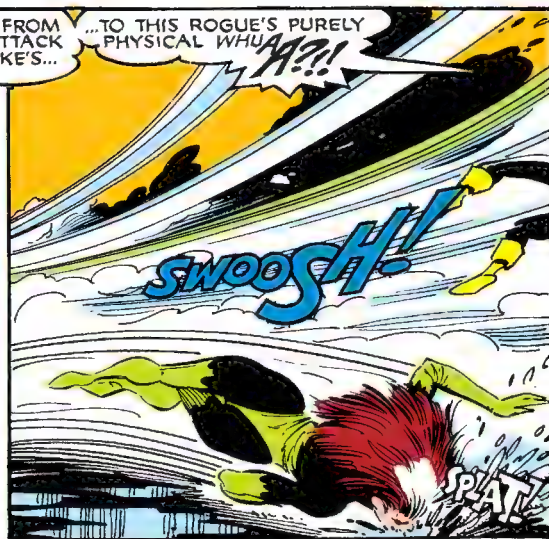
--BUT FIRST, I WANT JEAN GREY'S HEART!

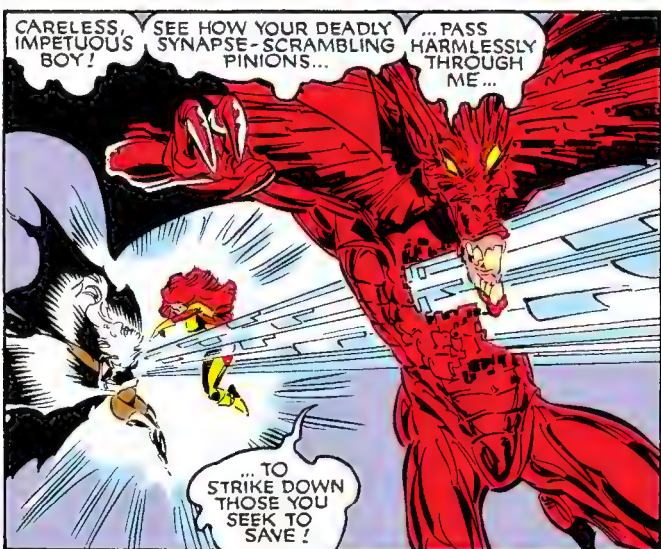
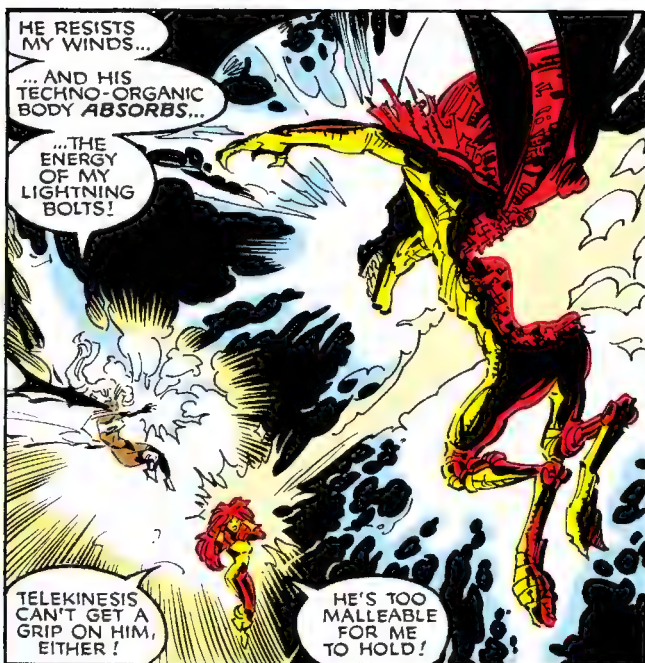


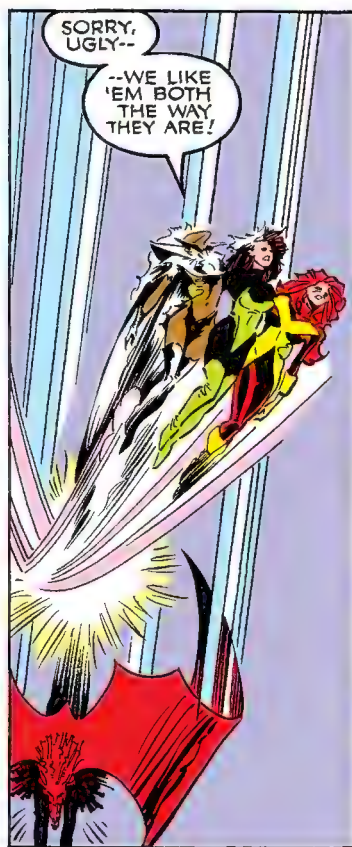
I WANT HER HEAD!

I WANT HER SOUL!











YOU WERE A
FOOL TO CHALLENGE
ME, GIRL!

WANNA
BET?
Y'SEE, BUNKIE,
A WHILE BACK...

...THE X-MEN
FOUGHT THE
MAGUS,
RULER OF THE
TECHNARCHY.

AH
ABSORBED
A CHUNK
OF HIS
POWER--



--JUST
LIKE AH'M
DOIN' NOW
TO YOU!

IN THE
PROCESS, AH
GAINED AN
IMMUNITY TO
THAT VIRUS.

LONGER AH HOLD
ONTO YOU, NASTY...



No!



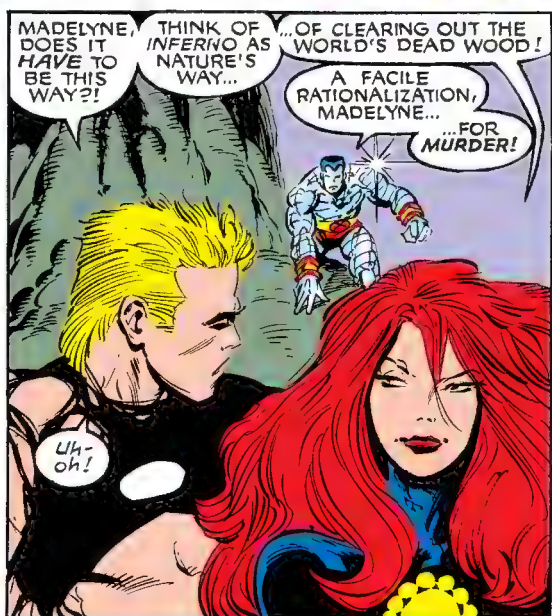
N'ASTIRH,
YOU
BUFFOON--
CAN'T YOU DO
ANYTHING
RIGHT?!

HER POWER
CAN ONLY
AFFECT
HIM...

HER NATURAL
INVULNERABILITY
MAY NOT BE
THE EQUAL OF
HIS STRENGTH.

...IF SHE'S
ALIVE TO
USE IT.

AT
LAST!



MADELYNE,
DOES IT
HAVE TO
BE THIS
WAY?!

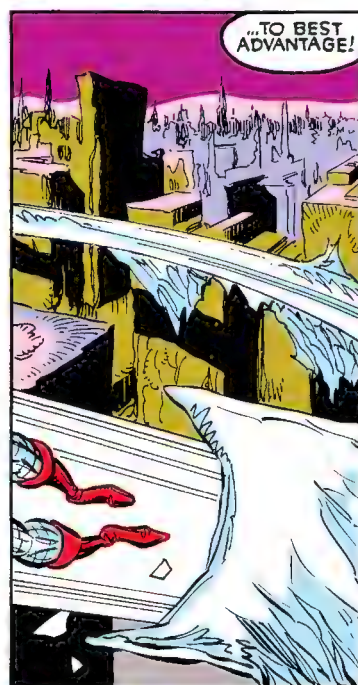
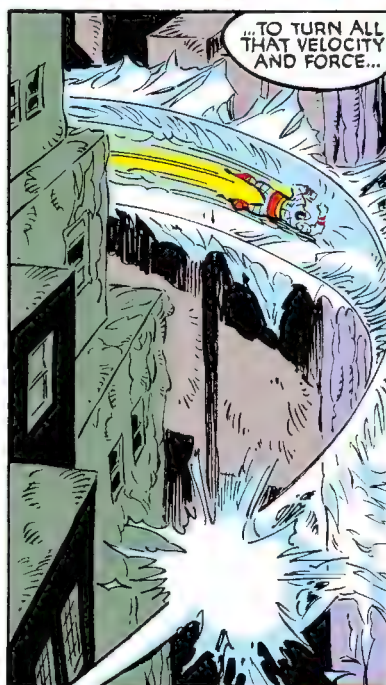
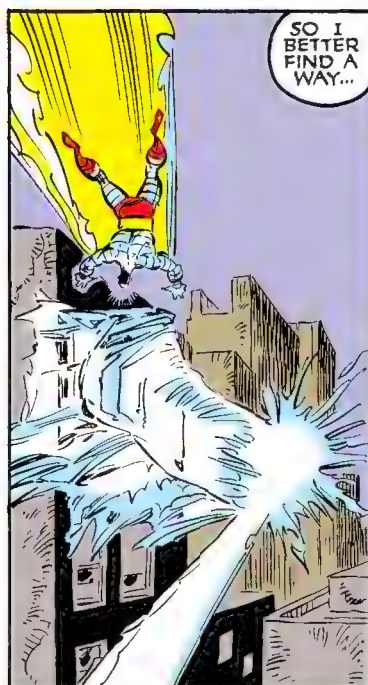
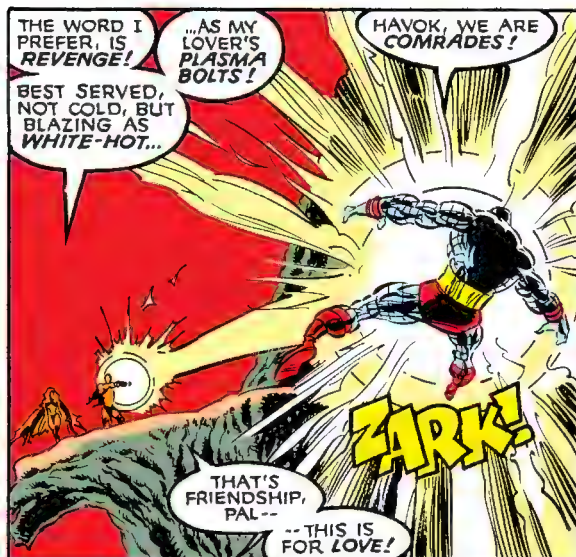
THINK OF
INFERNO AS
NATURE'S
WAY...

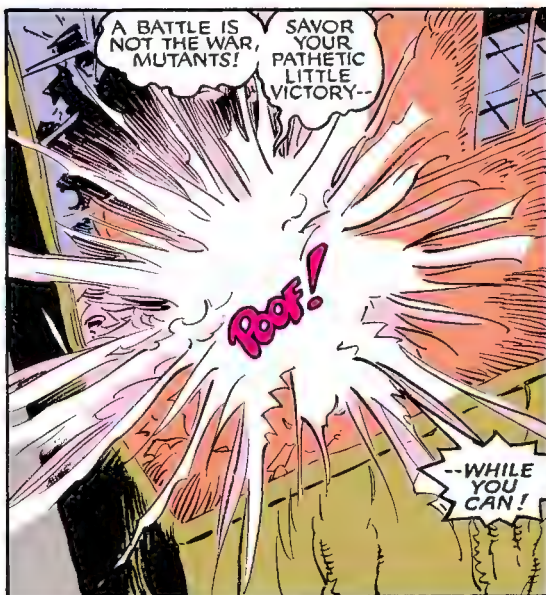
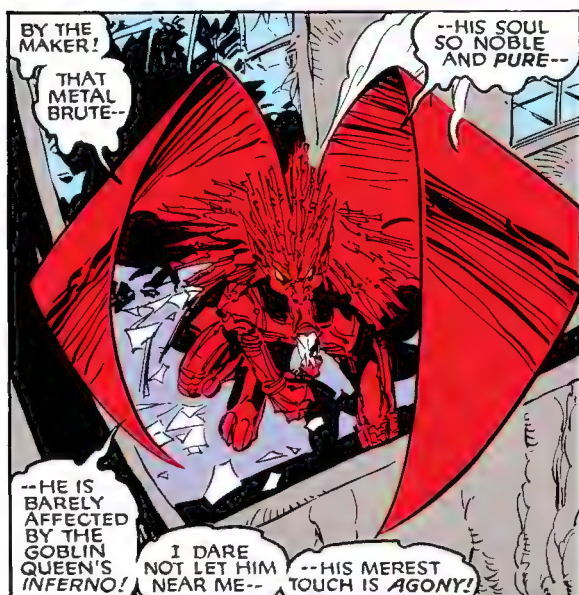
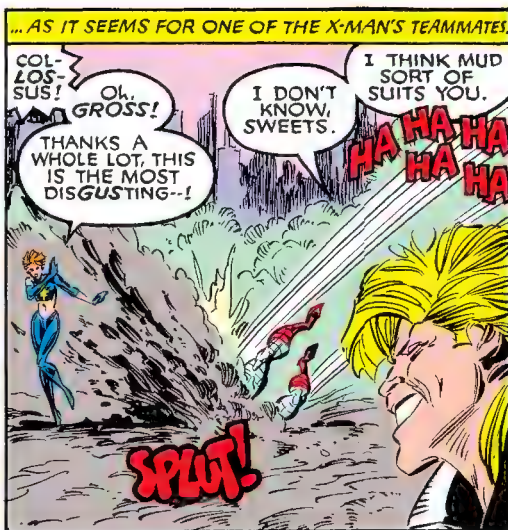
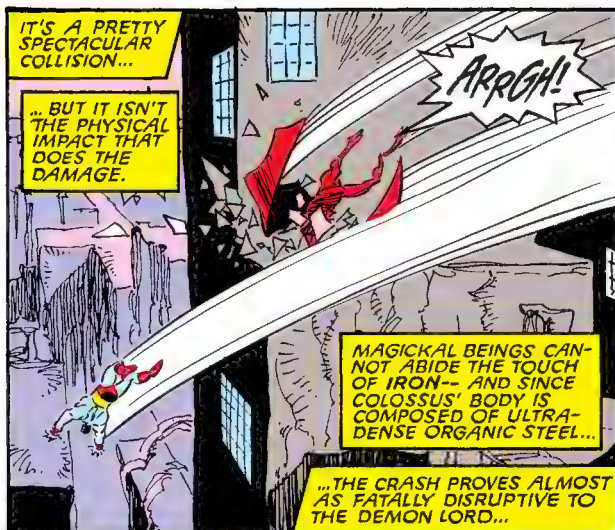
...OF CLEARING OUT THE
WORLD'S DEAD WOOD!

A FACILE
RATIONALIZATION,
MADELYNE...

...FOR
MURDER!

Uh-
oh!





ROGUE AND COLOSSUS DO.

PSYLOCKE-- ESTABLISH A TELEPATHIC RAPPORT BETWEEN THE TWO TEAMS, SO WE MAY ALL SHARE THEIR MEMORIES OF THAT BATTLE.

I THOUGHT X-FACTOR WERE OUR FOES?

N'ASTIRH IS THE TRUE ENEMY.

SOMEHOW, HE HAS MADE MADELYNE HIS CATSPAW.

TO SAVE HER, WE MUST DEFEAT HIM.

I DON'T KNOW IF I CAN, STORM, THE WAY THIS INFERNO IS INHIBITING MY POWERS.

JEAN IS A PSI-- CAN YOU LINK WITH HER, USING HER ABILITIES TO AUGMENT AND AMPLIFY YOUR OWN?

I DON'T LIKE STRANGERS INSIDE MY HEAD.

IS THIS HOW NON-PSIS FEEL...

... IN THE PRESENCE OF TELEPATHS--

--NAKED AND SO UTTERLY... DEFENSELESS?

DON'T WORRY--

OH!?!?

I'D... FORGOTTEN... HOW BEAUTIFUL!

OH!?!?

--AFTER THE FIRST MOMENT...

...WE'LL BE LIKE OLD FRIENDS.

I "SEE" ANOTHER TECHNO-ORGANIC CREATURE-- THE MAGUS!

PHYSIOMORPH SHAPE-CHANGER.

BODY COMPOSED OF ORGANIC CIRCUITRY.

LIVING COMPUTER!

ABSORBS "LIFEGLOW" FROM OTHER LIVING BEINGS...

...AS WELL AS FROM NATURAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL ENERGY SOURCES.

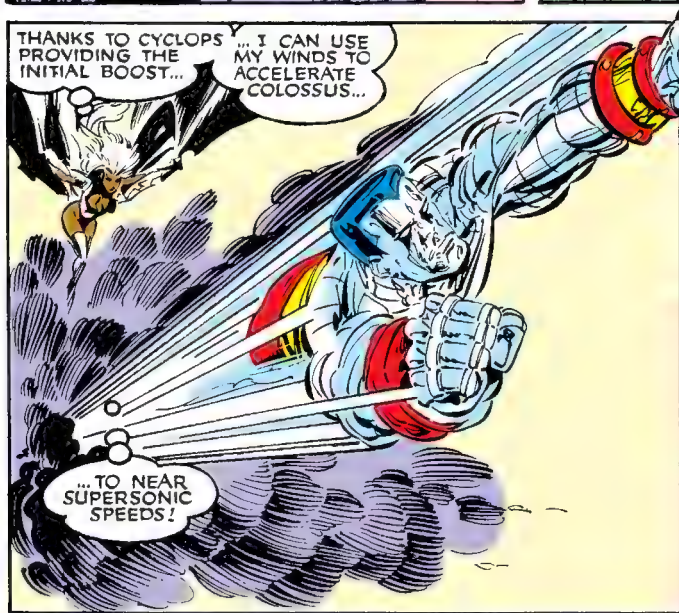
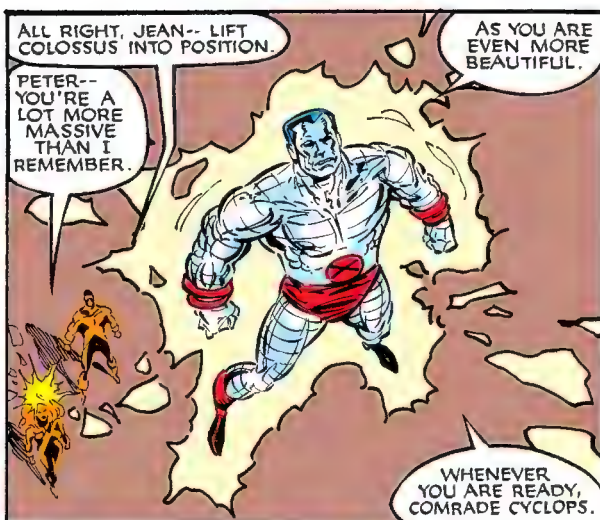
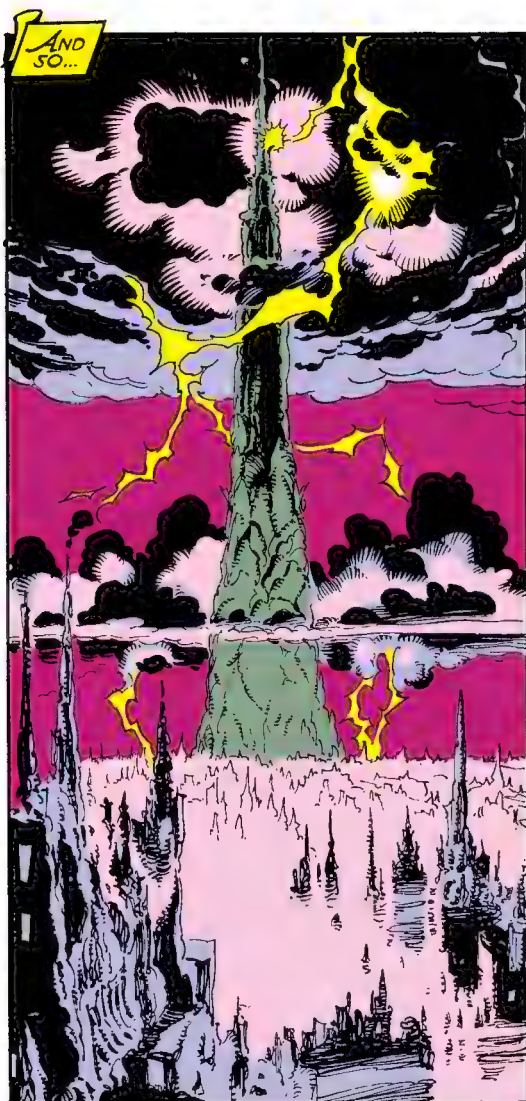
IT'S OVER.

I'M... HOLLOW AGAIN.

PSYLOCKE'S WITHDRAWN HER SUPPORT. THE LIGHTS IN MY MIND, OF OTHERS' THOUGHTS, THEY'RE GOING OUT.

LADIES AND GENTS...

...I THINK I HAVE AN ABSOLUTELY BRILLIANT IDEA!



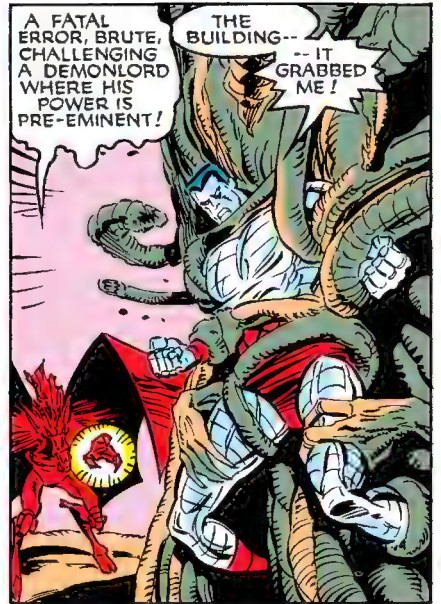


I HAVE A LOW TOLERANCE FOR FAILURE, N'ASTIRH.

DREAD MAJESTY, ALLOW ME--!

AND LESS FOR EXCUSES--

WHAT?!!



A FATAL ERROR, BRUTE, CHALLENGING A DEMONLORD WHERE HIS POWER IS PRE-EMINENT!

THE BUILDING-- IT GRABBED ME!



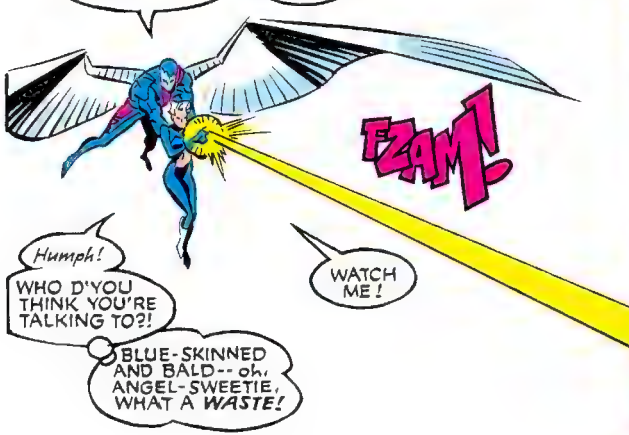
THE FANGS--

-- DRIPPING ACID--

-- THAT'S BURNING THROUGH MY ARMORED BODY!

CAN YOU CUT COLOSSUS LOOSE, DAZZLER--

-- WITHOUT HITTING HIM?



Humph!

WHO D'YOU THINK YOU'RE TALKING TO?!

BLUE-SKINNED AND BALD-- oh, ANGEL-SWEETIE, WHAT A WASTE!

WATCH ME!

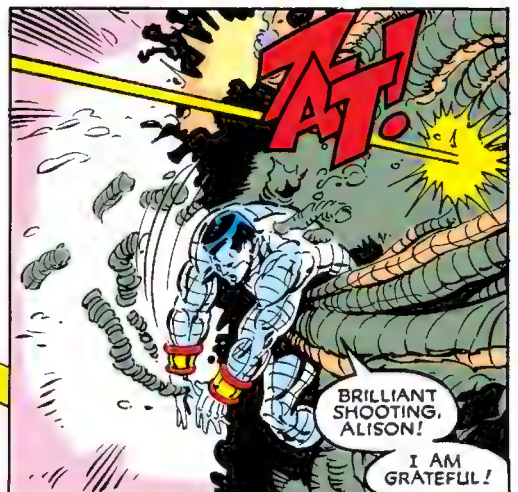


OVERCONFIDENCE, STRIPLING, WILL BE THE DEATH OF Y

AIEE!

IF IT IS NASTY--

-- HE WON'T BE ALONE!



BRILLIANT SHOOTING, ALISON!

I AM GRATEFUL!



HE IS
SAFELY
CLEAR,
ICEMAN.

I'LL BE GENERATING SOME
MURDEROUSLY INTENSE
COLD, STORM...

...YOU SURE
YOU CAN
HANDLE IT?

MY
ELEMENTAL
POWERS
WILL
PROTECT
ME.

OKAY
THEN, LADY--
HERE GOES
NOTHING!



CRETINS--
DO YOU THINK
I CAN BE
HELD BY A
MERE BLOCK
OF ICE?



NEVER
KNOW
'TIL YOU
TRY!



WHEN I WATCH
BOBBY CUT LOOSE
LIKE THAT, SCOTT...

...I FIND
MYSELF
WONDERING
IF HE
COULD
FREEZE
THE WHOLE
WORLD.

MUTANTS
POSSESS SO
MUCH POWER.

IS IT ANY WONDER
PEOPLE FEAR US?

SO MUCH FOR
SUMMER.

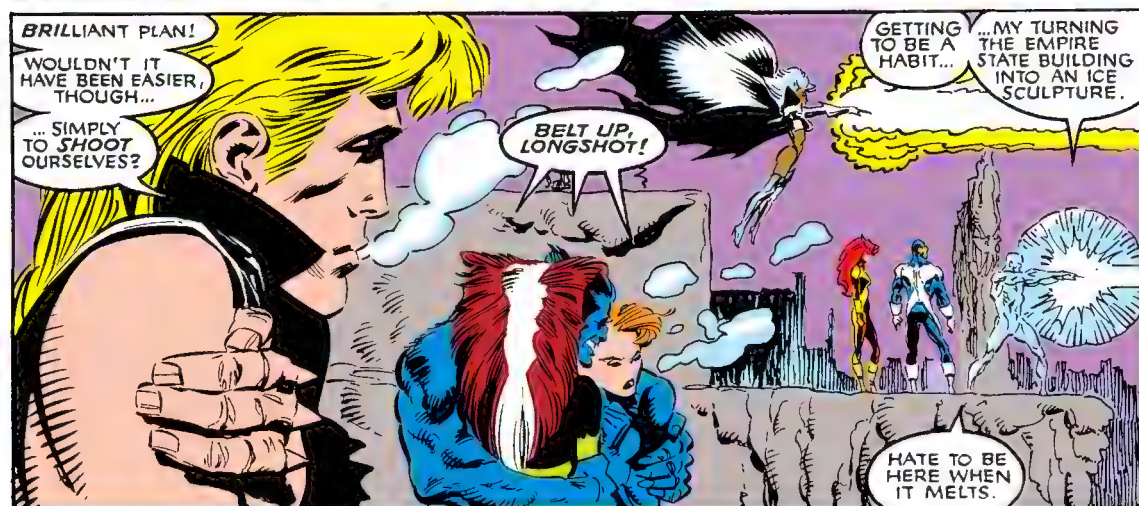
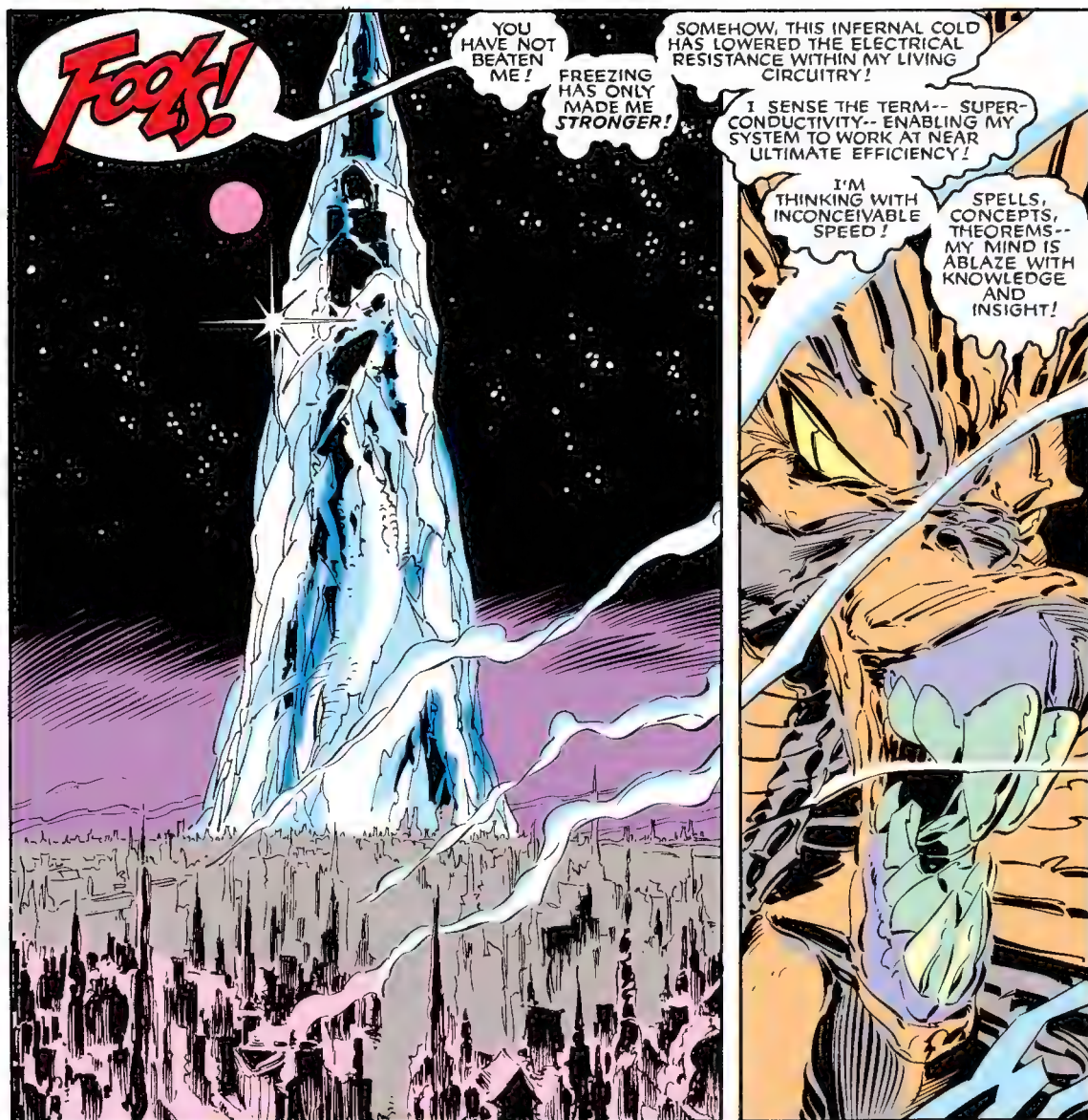


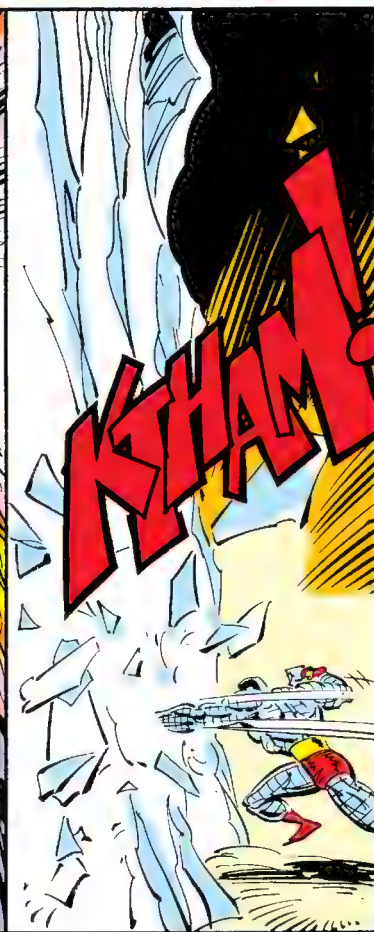
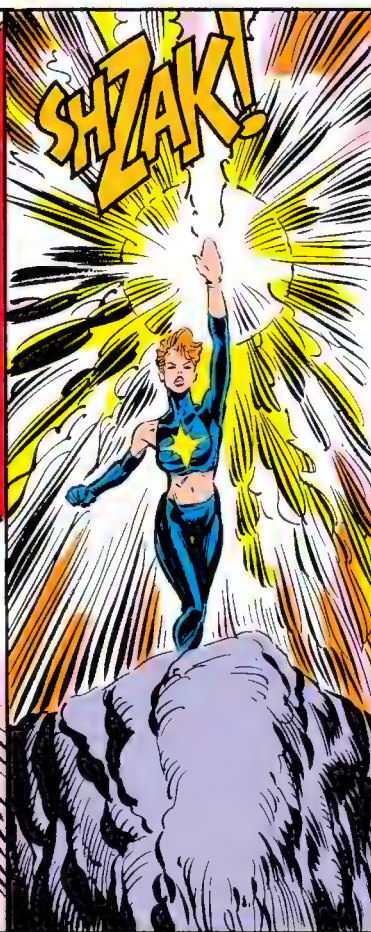
NOT TO
WORRY,
LOVELY
LADIES.

YOU'VE GOT THE BEAST'S
FUR COAT AND BLAZING
HEART TO KEEP THE
CHILL AWAY.

DON'T
TOUCH MY
BARE SKIN,
FELLA.

OR AH'LL ABSORB YOUR POWERS,
LIKE AH DID NASTY'S.



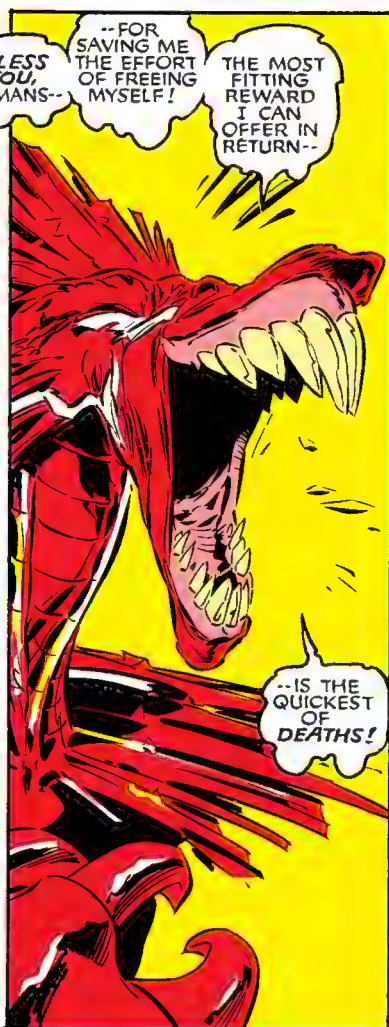




CRACK

KRAKE

SKRAMM



BLESS
YOU,
HUMANS--

--FOR
SAVING ME
THE EFFORT
OF FREEING
MYSELF!

THE MOST
FITTING
REWARD
I CAN
OFFER IN
RETURN--

--IS THE
QUICKEST
OF
DEATHS!



Urk?!?

WHAT
IS...

...HAPPENING...

...TO
ME?!!

NO!

NO!

THE HEAT--
CREATING
QUANTUM
INCREASE IN THE
RESISTANCE
WITHIN MY
CIRCUITRY--

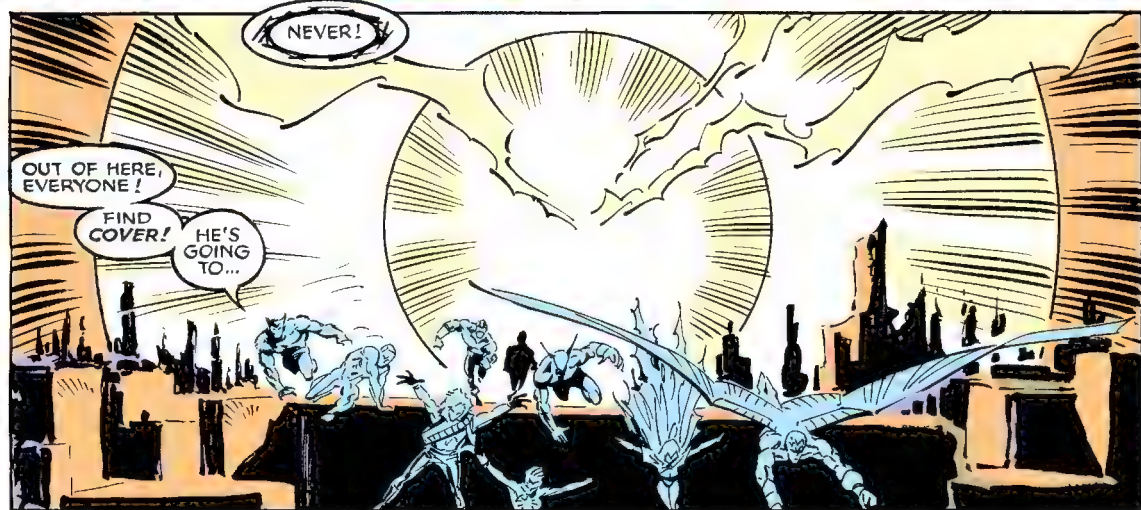
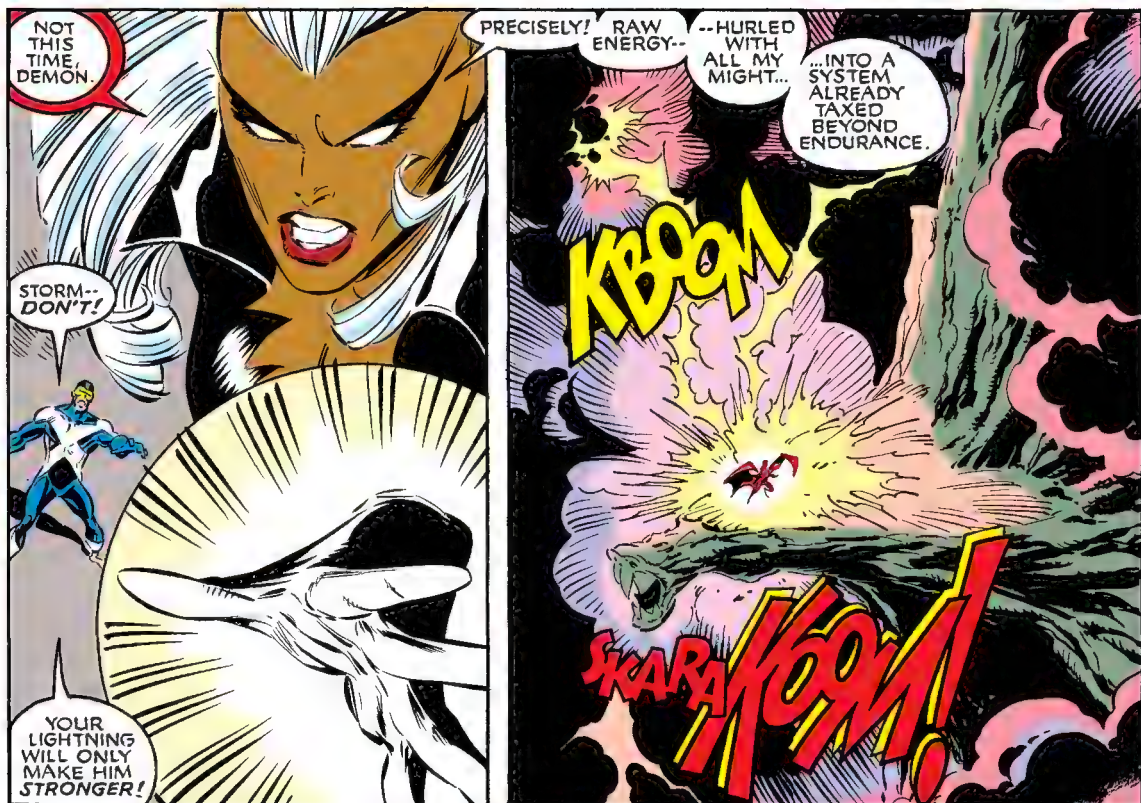
--SABLE
SHARDS,
THIS IS
AGONY!

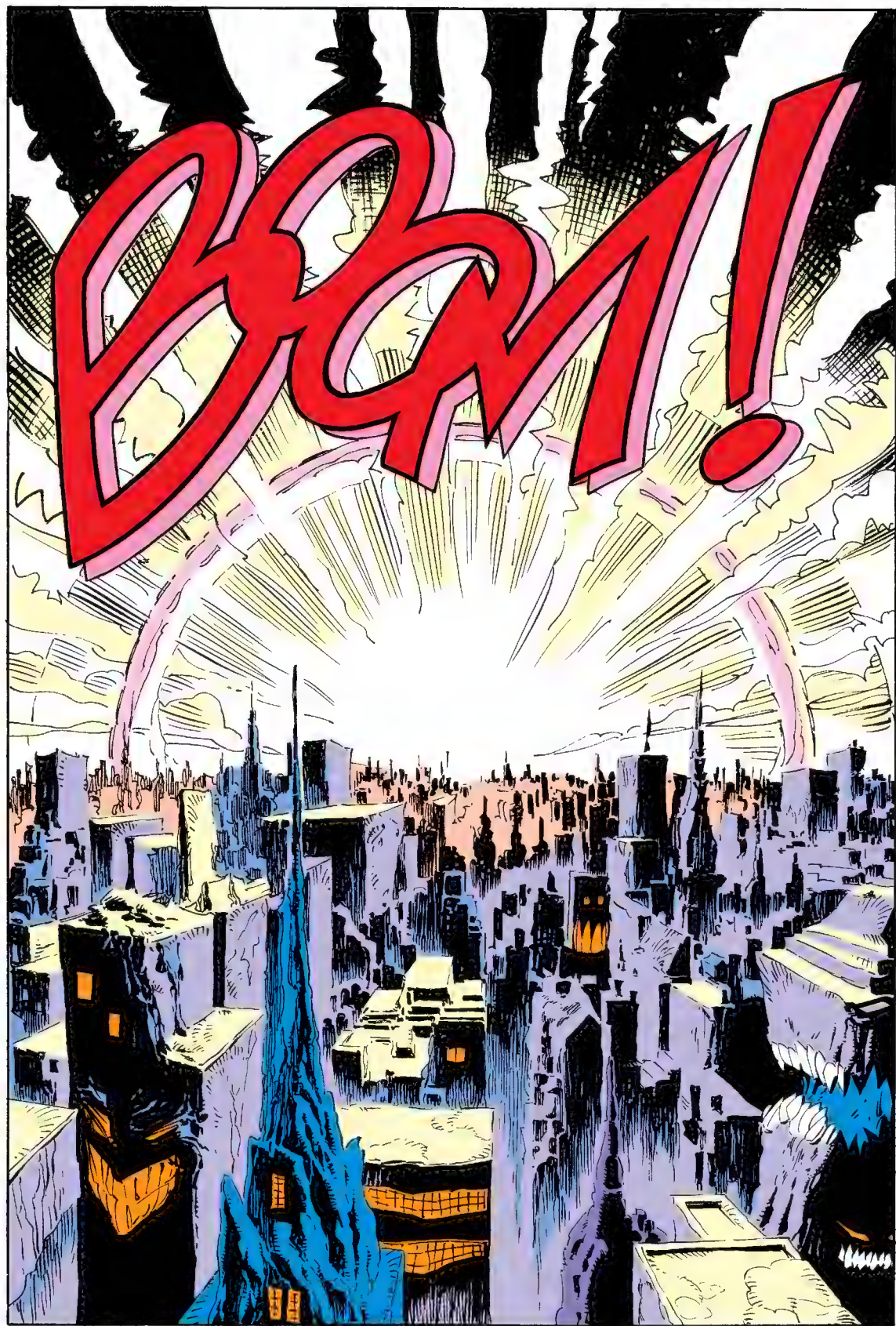
AND THE
HUMID AIR--
DISRUPTING
THE SYNAPSE
LINKAGES!

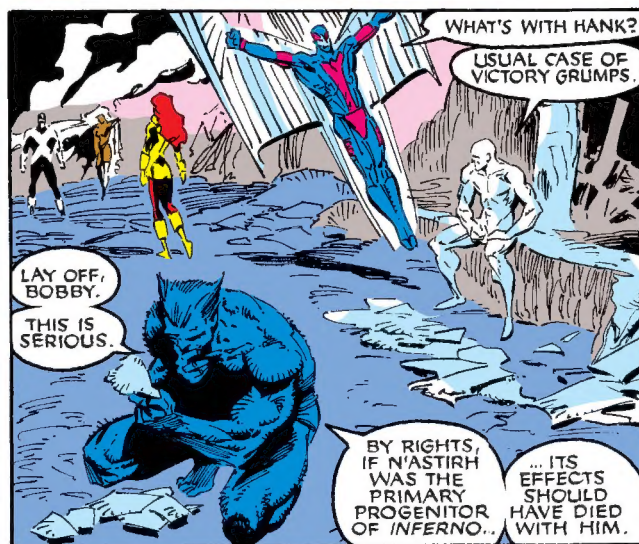
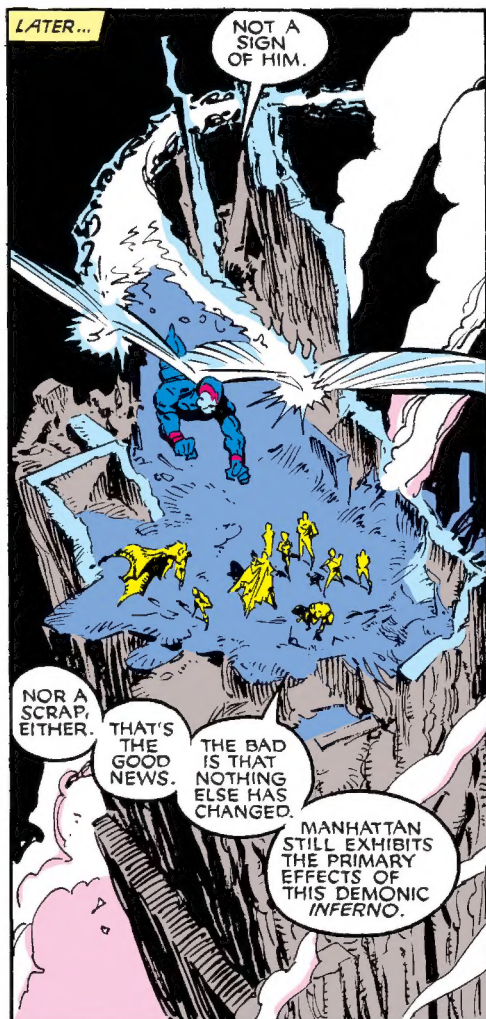


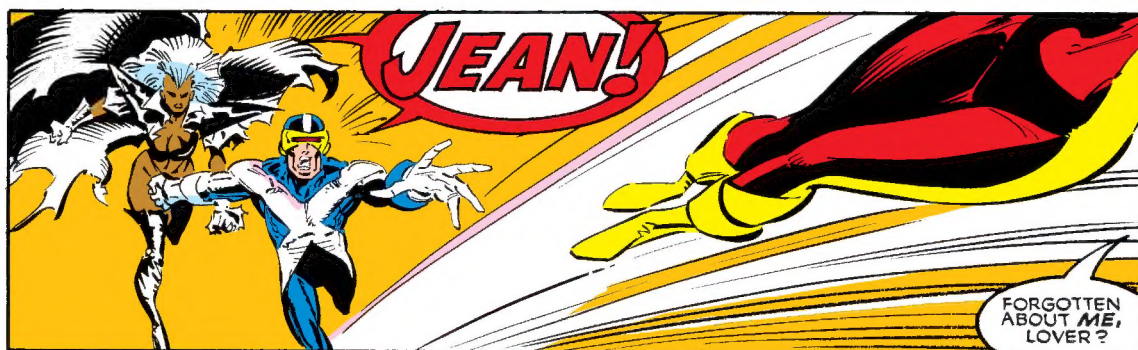
BY THE
ABYSS,
MUTANTS--

--YOU
WILL
PAY!









NOW--
X-MEN AND
X-FACTOR--

--IT'S
YOUR
TURN!



TO BE
CONTINUED
IN
X-FACTOR
#38!

NEXT: IN X-MEN #243--
PART THE 4th.

ASHES



MINUTEMEN

Bluntman